

# Love Token Society

# LOVE LETTER

No. 139



February 1992

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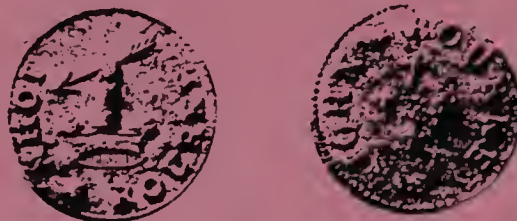
### **Love Letter Design**

Mary Hammel  
Manhattan, KS

## Love Token Teasers Part III

by Phillip T. Meldrum

This is the third and last of my series of annotations on Lloyd's book entitled "Love Tokens as Engraved Coins". It will be noticed that in the first two articles I have confined myself to comments concerning engravings on coins of Great Britain, subject only to one isolated note on "French pennies". In this last installment I intend to adhere to this pattern, leaving others more qualified to expound on love tokens of the U.S.A. P. 86, S160. The heraldic device of a hand clutching an arrow is to be found on the 18th century tokens of a Dublin tradesman named John Rourke, as illustrated on page 512 of Dalton and Hamer's "The Provincial Token-Coinage of the 18th Century" (reproduced below).



I have been unable to discover the definitive meaning of this symbol, although in the context of love tokens it could possibly represent a hand holding tightly on to an arrow shot from Cupid's bow. Could it be, I wonder, that the couple to whom S160 belonged were named Rourke, or is this stretching the imagination too far?

As we shall see later, a hand clutching a javelin (as distinct from an arrow) forms the crest surmounting the arms of Portsea Island - a peninsula in Hampshire, England - opening up a possible connection between the token and Portsea.

P 86, S161. Arising out of the motto: "Innocence and Love", we are asked what the relationship might be between these two qualities. I feel that the token was a gift to a child, this view being reinforced by the fact that the pivoted drum on which the two birds are standing appears to be a musical box. The love of a child for its parents is innocent in its nature, of course, such love being transmitted with equal fervor and innocence in the opposite direction. Hence the motto.

continued on page 3



## President's Message

by Lloyd L. Entenmann

With the beginning of a new year, I believe everyone is hoping for a better year than 1991. For me, so far, it is not as good. I spent most of December in bed, first with the flu, then a severe cold, then bronchitis. January not much better. I did manage to attend the FUN show in Orlando and two days after my return went into the hospital for a foot operation which has kept me immobile for over two weeks. Of course all of this has caused me to get way behind in my correspondence and other duties.

The biggest task now is to get the book sales moving. They are still on dead center! After my plea in the December Love Letter, not one response. I wonder, doesn't anyone read it? The book is not moving! There are 690 copies sitting in my living room! I am planning a new ad which will probably start in April, but the price of the book will also have to go up to \$58.00 delivered beginning May 1st! Since about half of the members have not yet purchased a copy, they have until May 1st to get their order in at the \$48.00 price.

A leading newspaper in Denmark saw my ad in the English magazine COIN NEWS and wrote for a free copy to run a review of the book in their newspaper. On January 24th I received a copy of their November 30th issue in which a review by Niels Stampe appeared on page 7 and was a full two column page length article, of course in their language. However, the author did send me an English translation, which is shown elsewhere in this bulletin.

So far we have 8 dealers who are stocking the book: 1 in London; 3 in Canada; and 4 in the United States. At the moment, only Spinks in London has ordered a second shipment. It is to the members best interest to sell this book to their friends and relatives, as it will bring more members into our Society, and consequently more love tokens into the collecting field. Many people have a few of these precious tokens and do not know what they are, and since they cannot spend them, put them aside and forget them. We need to get these pieces out in the open and into the hands of collectors! It is to your benefit!

You will find a report elsewhere on the FUN show and the coming ANA Midwinter show in Dallas at the end of February. At both shows the Society was and will be represented with a booth on the floor and a regional members meeting. If you can attend the Dallas show, please do so, and make yourself known at the booth and the meeting.

I have a 140 slide love token presentation which I am

scheduled to give at a treasure hunters meeting in February. I am also working on the possibility of reducing it to 80 slides and having 3 sets made up for donation to the ANA library to be lent out to any club or member for the cost of postage both ways. The slides are expensive, and I am also working on the possibility of having someone underwrite the cost of making them. I hope to have more on this project in the next Love Letter.

We have been very successful in selling members love tokens mainly through the Love Letter. The one big problem is that some members think they can wait before they send in their request. In the last Love Letter over half of the tokens listed were sold within three days of the mailing! All were by telephone calls! If there is anything you want, get your request in as quickly as possible, otherwise you are likely to be disappointed! If I am not home when you call you can leave your request on the answering machine. That will at least guarantee your priority of receipt.

At the last several coin shows that I have attended, I have noticed that more dealers are bringing their love tokens to the show. Some are even asking fair prices. I also find the high priced tokens can be purchased if you try to bargain with the dealer. Some dealers will not bargain, others will if they were looking for a sizable profit but not finding a buyer. So govern yourself accordingly!

Until next time, stay healthy, keep smiling, be happy, and push the book - it makes an excellent gift (for Easter perhaps?).




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### ANA Mid-Winter Coin Show at Dallas

The ANA Mid-Winter show will be held in Dallas, Texas, February 27-29, 1992.

We have requested a club booth and a room for a regional meeting during this show. All members who attend this show are requested to stop at the booth, make yourself known, and be sure, if possible, to attend our meeting. We need your cooperation at these shows when we have a meeting scheduled. It helps our standing at ANA headquarters. I will have an exhibit of love tokens in the exhibit area. All exhibits at this show are noncompetitive.

It will be helpful if you attend the show, to volunteer to spend an hour or two at the booth so that your President can get a chance to get on the floor to see what is around and what is taking place in the love token field. Your cooperation will be very much appreciated.



P. 87, S164. "My love I place on thy sweet face" must surely refer to a kiss? If not, then I can only suggest that S164 could have been one of two love tokens placed on the eyes of a deceased spouse or lover.

P. 88, S167. Could the indistinct name on this token perhaps be "Wm. Ross", and not "Wm. Razz"?

P. 90, T167A. The unusual spelling of the word "fixt" (for "fixed") is not quite so surprising when one considers that Shakespeare regularly used similar abbreviations for the purposes of scansion in his poetry. For example, in Sonnet XXI we find: "... though not so bright As those gold candles fix'd in heaven's air. The engraver of T167A was merely guilty of omitting an apostrophe and substituting "t" for a "d".

I cannot agree, either, that the word "range" is inappropriate. According to the Oxford Dictionary the word has many meanings, including rove, wander, and sail along.

So far as the spelling of "chiyce" (for "choice") is concerned, people in the past tended to spell words as they pronounced them, spelling not then having become entirely standardized. A Cockney - a Londoner born within earshot of the bells of St. Mary-le-Bow Church - would, for example, pronounce the word "choice" as "chiyce" (or "chice"). In Charles Dickens' "Pickwick Papers" the Cockney Tony Weller advises his son Samuel that: "Upon all little pints (pouints) o' breedin' ... If ever you gets up'ards o' fifty and feels disposed to marryin' anybody ... pison (poison) yourself, Samivel, my boy, pison yourself, and you'll be glad on it arterwards (afterwards)". And later on in the book Samuel, wishing to help the attractive Arabella Allen with her housework, slides up to her with the remark: "You'll spile (spoil) that wery pretty figure out o' all proportion if you shake them carpets by yourself". It is my guess that the engraver of T167A was a Cockney.

P. 90, T168. The engraver's spelling in the couplet: "our ship she sales with wind and tyde But now at anchor safe does ride" illustrates once again the non-standardization of spelling in the 18th century. Although "sales" (for "sails") was of doubtful acceptability, the spelling of "tyde" (for "tide") would have been quite acceptable in the 1700s.

P. 91, T169. An anchor with a rope round it (known as a "fouled anchor") is the heraldic symbol for Hope, whilst a heart symbolizes Love. The ribbon on the token is tied in a lover's knot, although the sparkling object hanging down from it is quite a mystery. Could it be a diamond?

John Peplow clearly had hopes of gaining the love of either Dinah Lewis or Mary Lewis, or perhaps -

especially if he was a Mormon - of both of them! My guess is that they were identical twins, and that he was prepared to marry the first one to accept him!

Pp. 91/92, T172. In this instance it would seem that two hearts have been punched (not engraved) on the reverse of a Portsea half-penny issued by George Edward Sargeants in 1794 during a period when regal small change was in such short supply that private tradesmen were obliged to issue their own tokens in order to fill the gap. The obverse of the token has been worn smooth but is illustrated below, together with the reverse:



It will be noticed that the crest above the coat of arms consists of a hand clutching a javelin. As to this, see my note concerning S160.

According to Lloyd's narrative the hearts seem to have been double struck, i.e., the first blow of the hammer on the punch left an indistinct impression on the token and the punch "jumped" before a second blow was struck.

P. 93, U177. The name on this token is "Rose", not "Role". What at first sight appears to be a letter "l" is in fact what is known as a "long s", i.e., a letter "f" with the right hand side of the cross-member omitted, thus: f. The question therefore arises whether Rose was the name of a person or the name of the ship. Whichever it was does not really matter, however, as a good story can be concocted about the token in any event... FR was a sailor with a wife or sweetheart who may, or may not, have been called Rose. He set sail in a ship that may, or may not, have been called Rose in 1791 and gave to his wife or sweetheart a love token engraved with his initials on one side and a picture of his ship on the other. A hole at the top enabled her to wear it around her neck, so that it rested close to her heart. FR sailed the Spanish Main for three long years and returned with a sea chest full of doubloons and pieces of eight. He and Rose (or Mary, or Jane, or Arabella, or whoever she may have been) got married, or stayed married - as the case may have been) - set up in business as ship's chandler's, and lived happily ever after!

Pp. 92-95, T175 & U180. Although the "Ville de Paris" bears a French name, the ship illustrated on T175 is clearly British since it is flying the Union Flag.

continued on page 5



## Financial Statement

### GENERAL FUNDS

Balance as of Nov. 30, 1991	\$5,431.42
Receipts	
Dues	\$1,910.00
New Members	50.00
Donations	47.00
Interest (Bank Accounts)	62.18
Correct Sept. Interest Error	(3.79)
 Total Receipts	 \$2,065.39
 Sub-Total	 \$7,496.81

### EXPENSES

Check #104 Post Office Plus (Stamper)	\$ 18.95
Check #105 Postmaster HV (Stamps)	116.00
Check #106 C.H. Godfrey (Misc.)	56.83
Check #107 A. N. A.	30.00
Check #108 LL #138 (R.C. Newhouse)	176.41
Check #109 Postmaster HV (Box rental)	35.00
 Total Expenses	 \$ 433.19

Balance as of Jan. 31, 1992 \$7,063.62

### PERMANENT FUND

#### Life Membership Account

Audubon Savings & Loan Association	
1 year Certificate of Deposit	\$400.00
Interest Earned on Certificate	32.88
Amount Reinvested In	
New 1-Year CD	\$432.88*

\* The cutoff date for withdrawing \$20.00 dues for the Life Membership was missed, and the CD was automatically reinvested. In December 1992 two years dues (\$40.00) will be withdrawn.

## Membership Report

Membership - Nov. 30, 1991	286
New Members	5
Resigned	4
 Membership - Jan. 31, 1992	 287

### • • • New Members • • •

Jill Byrne  
Peter S. Cohoon  
Al Hanak  
Marlon Munro  
Charles E. Novak

## Year-End Membership Report

From November 30, 1990 to November 30, 1991 the Love Token Society has shown an overall growth of 9.2 percent. This is an increase of 2.2 percent over the previous year. On November 30, 1990, our total membership was 262. During the year we signed up 43 new members, lost 1 member through death, 1 member resigned, we suspended 17 members for non-payment of dues, after ignoring repeated requests for payment. The result is a net gain of 24 members, bringing our total membership as of November 30, 1991 to 286.

## Year-End Financial Report

Balance on hand, November 30, 1990

\$7,233.74

### Receipts

Dues	\$600.00
New members	430.00
Interest on Bank Accts.	352.61
Life Member Fees	400.00
Miscellaneous	159.75

Total Receipts \$1,942.36

Subtotal \$9,176.10

### Disbursements

Printing/Mailing L. L.	\$ 958.87
Postage	364.40
Life Member CD	400.00
Redeemed Book Coup.	1,620.00
Souvenirs	100.00
Conventions (ANA, etc.)	150.00
Miscellaneous	155.20

Total Disbursements \$3,748.47

Balance on hand, November 30, 1991

\$5,427.63

The excellent response from the members in paying their 1992 dues has been very gratifying. It has given us the financial security to continue serving our members without reducing benefits. This year we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary. Your officers would like to see a large attendance of the membership at our meeting during the ANA Convention in Orlando.

- Charles H. Godfrey, Secretary-Treasurer



The design on U180 certainly indicates - as suggested by Lloyd - that it sank; and the female figure on that token is that of Hope (identifiable by her attribute, the anchor), perhaps signifying a hope that some special member of the crew would return home safe and sound. Is it of significance, I wonder, that the flag on T175 is flying at half-mast? It may be possible to obtain the history of the "Ville de Paris" and its crew from Lloyd's Register in London (no connection with Lloyd Entenmann!), which would be very interesting. P. 96, U183. The scene depicted here has been engraved on a cartwheel penny struck by Matthew Boulton at his private Soho Mint at Birmingham in 1797 (not 1793) under contract with the government. The coin was in fact minted with the raised rim mentioned by Lloyd, the original (abbreviated Latin) legend reading: GEORGIUS III D:G:REX = George III, by the Grace of God, King. The legend has only been partially erased and has been overstruck with what, from Lloyd's description, I imagine to be something like: CARLISLE from the NE ... E. ALLSOP Sc. The scene is a view of Carlisle from the northeast and it was engraved by one E. Allsop. The "Sc" is an abbreviation of the Latin "Sculpsit", i.e., "He engraved (it)". P. 97, U186. I suspect that this token commemorates the death, presumably on 1st March, 1727, of the person whose arms (consisting of three cross crosslets) have been engraved on the coin, since the arms are displayed on what appears to be a hatchment - a black, diamond-shaped board on which was painted the arms of a deceased person. Hatchments were formerly hung outside the front of a deceased's house for a short period after the death and then transferred into the church where he or she was buried, there to remain on permanent display. The fact that a church appears on the left-hand side of the reverse of the token serves to reinforce my opinion. Unfortunately, I have been unable to identify the family to whom the arms belong.

The stray figure 8 still remains unexplained, of course, as also does the word "Krmestead". Could this possibly be a misspelling of some European town - perhaps the place where the deceased passed away?

Pp. 100 & 102. Forgive me if I mention, in passing, that the first regal copper coins were minted in England in 1672 and not 1770.

Pp. 182/183, AE299. Although the male figures on the obverse and reverse of this token may have different features, they are nevertheless dressed alike and my guess is that they were intended to represent one and the same person - especially in view of the fact that the initials are the same on both sides. The

engraver was perhaps not a very good portrait artist, which would explain the difference in the features. The man (T.D., wearing a top hat) and the woman (L.H., wearing a mob cap) - possibly married, for reasons that I will explain later - were clearly in love whilst they were both alive, and they are shown to be such (in a domestic situation) on one side of the token. On the other side is a tomb surmounted by a funerary urn, indicating that T.D. had died. He and L.H. are shown standing either side of the tomb, the implication being that they were still united in spirit despite T.D.'s death. The meaning of the letters "L-D-F" is certainly obscure but they could mean "Love, Death, Faithfulness", "Love Doesn't Fade", or something very similar.

The bottle in the woman's hand could represent a medicine bottle and the bowl in the man's hand could be a bleeding bowl, indicating that he had died after an illness.

As I have said, the couple might possibly have been married despite the difference in their initials, since in Scotland a married woman still retains her maiden name. If Lucy Harrison were to marry Thomas Dunn in Scotland, for example, she would be legally described as "Lucy Harrison, otherwise Dunn". It is quite possible that the token may have originated in Scotland and subsequently found its way to the U.S.A.

P. 183, AE300. The letters "s", "r", "rs" and "o" are raised on this token to indicate that they all form parts of an abbreviation, so that the full legend round the token reads: "Thomas Allan Obiit December 22 1786 Aged 3 years and 6 months". The Latin word "Obiit", meaning "died", would have been readily understood by any 18th century Englishman who had attended a grammar school since these were schools where both Greek and Latin grammar were taught.

Here I must end my series of annotations, and I will do so with a quotation from a Spanish "Dictionary of Symbols" by J. E. Cirlot (translated by Jack Sage), which tells us that "The heart pierced with an arrow is a symbol of conjunction". Love and its symbol are truly international! My conjunction to you all!

The End.

### • • • • Wanted • • • •

Dear Sir, I am a member in good standing in the Love Token Society. At present I am searching for three love tokens: Robert (Bob); Nancy (Nan); and Michael (Mike). Would you be so kind as to mention it in the Love Letter? It would be most appreciated. Thank you.

Dennis Freeman  
P.O. Box 422  
Congers, NY 10920



## Congratulations Robert Higdem!

Member Robert Higdem of Boise, Idaho, entered a love token exhibit at the 34th Annual Southern Idaho Coin Show in Boise on November 1 through 3, 1991. He not only won FIRST PLACE in the class, but also won BEST OF SHOW! Congratulations on such a wonderful achievement! This accomplishment entitles him to the Love Token Society's Silver Certificate Award and a one-year free membership in the Society.

We hope this will excite some of our members to put an exhibit together and also win an award. There was an article in our August Love Letter on how to put an exhibit together. This article will also appear in the February issue of THE NUMISMATIST (the ANA monthly bulletin). These exhibits are a great influence to other collectors who do not know of the existence of the Love Token Society, and enlarges our field of association. Try it!

### Report on FUN Orlando Show January 9-12, 1992

For the first time, the Love Token Society had a booth at the Orlando FUN coin show as well as a regional members meeting. Book sales and love token sales were very poor however. Since the Society cannot sell anything at the booth, it is difficult to achieve much success. Books were sold by directing people to a dealer at the end of the aisle our booth was on. Stone Mountain Supplies is one of the distributors who is stocking the book. Purchasers could buy the book there and bring it back to our booth to be autographed. However at least eight persons said they would go down to buy the book, but only two did so and only one came back for the autograph. As for love tokens only 4 were sold by the purchaser selecting what they wanted and then completing the transaction in my hotel room. In the same manner a dealer was signed up to cry the book in his hop. One new member was signed up at the booth.

At the meeting, there were 12 persons present. After a discussion on the book and a question and answer period, several members brought some of their collections to display. This was most interesting, as there were a number of unusual beautiful pieces of jewelry made as or from love tokens. You just had to see them as it was just about impossible to adequately describe them. It was planned to present Jane Finnell with her life membership certificate, but she failed to appear. The presentation was finally made on the last day of the show at the booth. A number of people stopped at the booth mainly to find out what love tokens were, having never heard of them before. About 23 membership applications were handed out, but how many will ever come back is debatable.

## Life Memberships

Several years ago the membership approved a life membership in the Society. The fee was established at \$200.00 payable in one lump sum or in three successive annual installments. The life membership becomes effective when the full fee has been invested for one full year. Annual dues are payable until the life membership fee becomes effective. At the time the life membership was established, two members took advantage of it by paying the full fee and are now enjoying its benefits. Several members have expressed an interest but taken no action.

Regardless of age, this is a good deal. No matter how long you may live, you will always be a paid up member in good standing, and at your death, you are giving a \$200.00 donation to the Society, which will contribute \$10.00 each year thereafter to the Society's general operating fund. If you are up in years now, it is still a good deal, as we never know what is going to happen to our financial situation. With medical expenses as they are today, one illness can leave you almost penniless in a very short period of time. With a life membership you will always be able to maintain your membership without any effect on the budget.

Think about it! If you can't afford the \$200.00 now, pay \$75.00 plus 1992 dues of \$10.00 now, next December pay the same amount with 1993 dues, and in december 1993 pay \$50.00 plus 1994 dues of \$10.00 and forget about dues thereafter! Hopefully, it won't be necessary, but if it is, you will be very glad you were so thoughtful now.

### Love Token Wanted

Love token wanted with initials LK or LSK. Please describe and price. Thank you.

Melvin L. Dieterich  
P.O. Box 238  
North Olmstead, OH 44070-0238



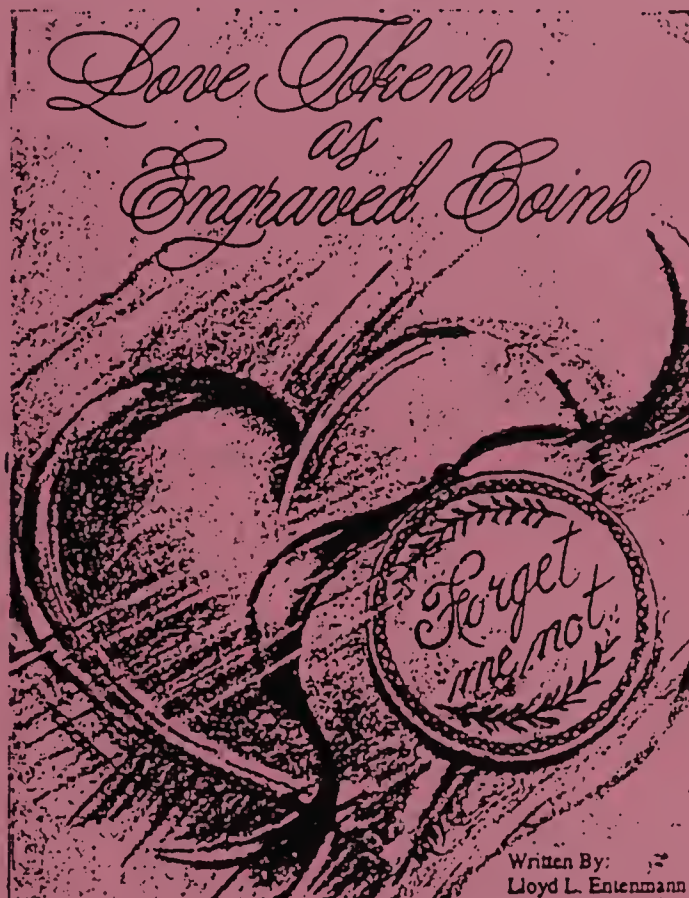


## MØNTER



NIELS  
STAMPE

# Kærlighed på mønter



Omslaget til den første bog om love tokens eller forgem-mig-øj mønter.

Sympatisk bog, som for første gang udførligt fortæller om graverede inskriptioner på mønter beregnet til ens elskede eller nærmeste.

Lloyd L. Entenmann: *Love Tokens as Engraved Coins*. (1991). 21 x 27 cm, 246 s. med 375 ill. Kan købes hos forfatteren, 130 Cornell Road, Audubon, New Jersey 08106, USA, ved at sende en check på US\$ 48, som inkluderer forsendelse.

findes kun i et eksemplar og er lavet til glæde for en anden eller for at indgyde sig selv et håb (fængsel-token).

### Dybe følelser

Love tokens opnåede deres blomstringstid ved sidste århundredskifte. I USA har man mest benyttet små sølvmonter, mens man i England fortrinsvis benyttede større kobbermonter til love tokens.

Forfatteren går uhyre metodisk til værks ved at inddele love tokens i mange grupper, bl.a. ægteskab, skilsmisse, fødsel, pornografi, fængsel, religion og død. Og brug: F.eks. broche, armbånd og halskæde.

Love tokens stammer fra England eller mere præcist fra Wales i sidste halvdel af 1500-tallet, hvor det begyndte med håndmalede kærestehilsener på stof eller silke. Man brugte også en skik med at skære nytte- eller pyntegenstande ud i træ til ens udkårne. Hertil måtte kun bruges ét stykke træ, og de fineste udførte modeller kunne tage op til to år at lave!

Senere bredte skikken sig til mønter, som i begyndelsen blev håndgraverede. Efter en tid tog man også maskiner til hjælp. For at en sådan mønt kan benævnes en love token, skal den være lavet af en mønt, som er eller har været gangbar.

Mønten kan være sletet glat på den ene eller – sjældnere – på begge sider. Mønten bliver måske også bøjet, hullet, skåret hjerteformet eller lavet, så den forestiller en figur, hvorefter en tekst bliver graveret ind.

En anden form for love token er emaljerede mønter uden inskriptioner, og hvor hensigten oftest er et smykke til den, man kan lide.

Skikken med love tokens kendes fra mange lande – også Danmark. Mest populær har love tokens været i England, USA og Canada, og det er disse lande, forfatteren holder sig til.

Indtil dato har der ikke været skrevet meget om love tokens. Derfor har Entenmann brugt mere end to år til studier derom og bl.a. besøgt museer og samlere i England for at have tilstrækkelig baggrund for en bog.

Hver eneste love token er et unikt stykke, for de

Entenmann lægger ikke skjul på, at de engelske love tokens efter hans mening udtrykker de dybeste følelser, og han bruger hele tiden sin fantasi til at kommentere inskriptionerne på de mange tokens, han omtaler. For, som han siger, det er jo umuligt for os at vide, hvad der i virkeligheden har været mellem to mennesker.

I et kapitel gennemgås de mest benyttede graveringsmetoder og stilarter, og hvordan man kan skelne mellem hånd- og maskinlavet.

Foruden at være en sympatisk og velskrevet bog, hvor læseren med mønter som tidsbestemmende dokumentation for et indblik i en svunden tid og i menneskers helt personlige forhold, er der endnu en grund til for interesserede at anskaffe sig denne bog:

Den er den første om et specielt emne, og netop derfor vil den blive et referenceværk i fremtiden. – Og så må man bære over med at bogen er sat med skrivemaskineskrift og at illustrationerne ikke er de mest tydelige, men det afhjælpes med en omhyggelig citeren hele vejen igennem.

### Forening

I USA findes der en forening for samlere af love tokens. Den hedder Love Token Society og har Entenmann som formand. Kontingentet er \$ 10 både for enkeltmedlemmer og for klubber. For optagelse eller flere oplysninger kontakt Charles H. Godfrey, P. O. Box 1049, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006, USA.

### Klubberne

☐ VESTFYNS Møntklub: Møde tirsdag 3. dec. kl. 19, Bakkehuset, Assensvej 100, Middelfart.

☐ NYBORG Møntklub: Møde/auktion onsdag 4. dec. kl. 19, Korsbrødregården.

☐ GLAMSBJERG: Julemøde/banko onsdag 4. dec. kl.

19, Glamsbjergskolen, lokale 20.

☐ MIDTFYNS Møntklub: Møde/auktion torsdag torsdag 5. dec. kl. 19 i Ringe Hallen.

☐ NUMIS-MØNT Forening: Møde/anv.salg torsdag 5. dec. kl. 18,30, Lions Center, Skyttehusgade 42, Vejle.



The following is a translation of the article on page 7 of this Love Letter, submitted by the writer of a book review on Love Tokens as Engraved Coins as it appeared in the November 30, 1991 edition of *Fyens Stiftstidende*, published in Odense, Denmark.

(Headline) Love On Coins

"Sympatic book, which for the first time ever in details tell us about the engraved inscriptions upon coins to ones dearest or closest. Lloyd L. Entenmann: Love Tokens as Engraved Coins. (1991). 21 x 27 cm, 246 pages with 375 illustrations. Can be bought at the writer, 130 Cornell Road, Audubon, New Jersey 08106, USA, by sending a check upon US \$48, which includes postage.

"Love tokens come originally from England or more precisely from Wales in the later half of the 1500, where it began with handpainted greetings with love upon cloths or silk. They also used a custom of carving useful or decorated things in tree to ones loved. To that they were only allowed to use one piece of tree, and it could take up to almost two years to make the finest models.

"Later the custom was spread to coins, which in the beginning were engraved by hand. After a while they also took machines to help. To be called a love token, it is a must that the coin ones had been legal tender.

"The coin may be cut smooth upon the one or - more seldom - upon both sides. The coin may also be bent, holed or cut heart shaped, or made in a way so it is like a figure, whereafter the text will be engraved upon.

"Another kind of love tokens are enamelled coins without inscriptions, and where the intention most often is to make a jewel to the one you like.

"The custom with love tokens are known from many countries - also denmark, Love tokens were most popular in England, USA and Canada, which are the countries the writer deals with.

"So far there has not been written much about love tokens. That why Entenmann has spent more than two years to study the theme and visited museums and collectors in England to gain background for a book.

"Every love token is a unique piece, because it only exist in the same piece, which is made for the joy of another, or to give oneself a hope (token of prison).

(Sub-heading) Deep Feelings

"Love tokens had their time of blooming around the last turn of century. In USA love tokens were mostly made of

small silver coins but in England they mainly used the larger copper coins.

"The writer is enormous methodical by showing love tokens in many groups, e.g., marriage, divorce, birth, pornography, in prison, religion and death. And for use, for instance brooch, bracelet or necklace. Entenmann does not make a secret of he thinks the English love tokens after his opinion are expressing the deepest feelings, and all time he is using his fantasy to comment the inscriptions upon the many tokens, he is talking about, for, as he says, to-day it is really impossible for us to know, what there in reality had been between two people.

"In a chapter he mentions the most used methods of engravings and styles, and how you can distinguish between hand - or machine made.

"Besides being a sympatic and well written book, where the reader with coins as documentation get an insight in a past time and in personal relations between people, there is just another reason for the interested to get this book: it is the first book ever written about a special theme, and therefore in the future it will become a work of reference. And then one have to bear with the book of this type set on machine and that the illustrations are not the most clear ones, but this is helped by a very careful citation all the way through.

(Sub-heading) Association

"In USA there is an association for collectors of love tokens. The name is Love Token Society and has Entanmann as Chairman. The pay is \$10. for sole members and for clubs. Membership or more information, contact Charles H. Godfrey, P.O. Box 1049, Huntingdon Valley, Pa. 19006, USA.

Footnote of author: "In my 25 years as a collector I have seen less than 100 Danish love tokens. Most of them are 25 ore of the Y12 type. Much more seldom are the 10 ores of the Y11 type. - Niel Stampe

It is interesting to note the slight differences in phraseology and spelling, and usage of words. We must bear in mind, the book was read in English, the critique was written in their language, and then that article was again translated back into English. This can cause a double distortion in the final interpretation.









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**Love Token Society Love Letter**  
Dr. Robert C. Newhouse  
3200 Ella Lane  
Manhattan, KS 66502

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# Love Token Society

# LOVE LETTER



No. 140

April 1992

## Love Token Society Officers

### **President**

Lloyd L. Entenmann  
130 Cornell Road  
Audubon, NJ 08106  
609-547-2857

### **Vice President**

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913-539-1831

### **Love Letter Design**

Mary Hammel  
Manhattan, KS

## **Love Tokens**

### **Symbols of Affection and Artistry**

by Anthony Vigliotta, NLG

Every year, with the approach of Valentine's Day, the numismatic press comes alive with articles on Love Tokens. To assure that both the tradition of Valentine's Day and Love Tokens remain a vibrant heritage, another variation on this subject is presented in this article.

To those totally uninformed about Love Tokens and their niche in exonumia. I offer a brief clarification and list of definitions.

**Love Token** — normally consists of a coin planed or polished flat on one side (usually the reverse) and then engraves or marked with the recipient or loved one's initial, name or a message. The prime objective was to be a symbol of love or affection.

**Exonumia** — a broad category of non-money, non-legal tender numismatic items, including tokens, medals and badges. An exonumist is a specialist in exonumia.

**Coin** — usually a piece of metal marked with a device, issued by a governing authority and intended to be used as money.

**Engraving** — the act, process or art of cutting or etching designs or letters on metal plates or objects.

**Monogram** — initials of a name, synonym for initials.

**Scenic** — display of natural scenery.

The tradition of presenting engraved coins as a means of expressing love or affection is believed to have originated in England in the late 17th or early 18th century. This tradition was adopted in the United States shortly after the Civil War and became so widespread in the late 19th century that the government passed a law early in the 20th century outlawing the practice of "mutilation" (i.e. Love Tokens). This was done because coins would not circulate as coins of the realm after being engraved.

*Love tokens continued on page 3*



## President's Message

by Lloyd L. Entenmann

With the beginning of spring, I wish I was a little "Genie" so that I could sprinkle this love letter to you with a bit of fertilizer with the hope it will encourage the growth of a desire to purchase our book LOVE TOKENS AS ENGRAVED COINS. At this writing I have 667 books accumulating dust and blocking the use of my living room. I have been spending a great deal of money on advertisements in a number of publications here in the United States with practically no results. In Europe, I ran an ad in a monthly coin magazine for 6 consecutive months and got as much response as from all the advertising in all the US media! I've gotten responses from England, Ireland, Denmark, Germany, France, and Monaco (even a dealer who is stocking the book in Monaco). What is wrong with the United States? Don't they read English? Maybe the Japanese are right when they accuse us of being lazy?

I attended the ANA Mid-Winter coin convention in Dallas at the end of February. The Society had a regional meeting and a table on the bourse at this show, and it was so successful I would have done better staying home! I didn't sell a thing (except 4 love tokens to a member), but bought a \$20.00 gold love token (my first), and two other regular ordinary love tokens. I did talk with a number of people who had never heard of love tokens before, but it was all conversation, no expression of interest in the hobby. Nobody showed up for the meeting.

It is getting very discouraging as I am putting in a great deal of time and effort into the hobby, not for myself but to share with you, but the response to participate is just about nil!

This brings up another situation which is disturbing. Our Secretary-Treasurer has advised that he will not be available for another term at our annual meeting and

election of officers in August. He has repeatedly asked for a volunteers, but not one volunteer. When I accepted the Presidency, I had just retired and was the only officer the Society had. I was President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Editor. Fortunately, we do have an interested Editor who is doing an excellent job, but all alone! I cannot do that again. I am an officer active in six other organizations, and cannot take on another added burden. The Secretary-Treasurer is the heart of the Society and with planning, is not an enormous task as long as you keep the record keeping current. This is especially true if the records can continue to be maintained on a computer. The Society cannot function without a Secretary-Treasurer and if we cannot have one, it can result in the end of the Society. With 300 members there has to be at least one member out there who can take on this position with honor. Please, somebody come forward! Prove that we are an active financially sound, interested organization!

I look forward to feeling like a June bride in our next issue (in June) with increased book sales and a Secretary-Treasurer candidate!

*Lloyd L. Entenmann*

The reason this issue of the Love Letter is late is that Mary Hammel, our layout designer, has been diagnosed with leukemia. She is expected to be in the hospital for six to eight weeks. She would enjoy hearing from our readers.

Address:

Mary Hammel  
St. Francis Hospital,  
Room 318  
1700 SW 7th Street  
Topeka, KS 66606  
(913)295-8318



*Love tokens continued from page 1*

Love Tokens are unique, fascinating, and unlike any other branch of numismatics as a physical expression of affection. Each Love Token is one-of-a-kind and handmade. They are a very personal piece of property and reflect the skill and artistry of the engraver.

In my prior articles published in FUN-Topics, I addressed the tradition of Love Tokens, engraving techniques, and price valuation factors. These articles and a comprehensive book published by Lloyd L. Entenmann on the subject of Love Tokens are listed in the reference section at the end of this article.

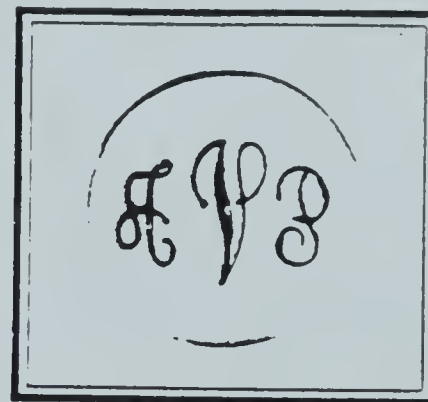
As indicated previously, each Love Token is basically unique. I have never seen two Love Tokens that were exactly alike. Unfortunately the story and tradition behind many Love Tokens presently in collections and on the numismatic market have been forgotten and lost with time.

With time, the tradition of engraved coins as a means of expressing love and affection has expanded into other fields and applications. As a result, all engraved coins, irrespective of subject and application, are classified as Love Tokens, even though the message conveyed may have no direct or indirect expression of love.

The following set of Love Tokens, primarily from my private collection, will demonstrate the varieties and numerous applications that engraved coins have been used for.

These Love Tokens have been selected because of their special appeal to me or because of the unique event or tradition that they were meant to convey at the time they were engraved.

The first group of Love Tokens includes true, classical Love Tokens on which either the monogram, initial, name or title of the recipient was identified.



**1. Plain Monogram — APV— Script.** This first token, with the monogram "APV" is probably my favorite. This token was presented to me by my daughters on my 70th birthday. My daughters were fully aware of my avocation in collecting Love Tokens, so they thought that presenting me with a Love Token with my monogram would be both an appropriate gift and an expression of their affection.

Deciding to give me a Love Token for my birthday was simple. The next phase was getting one on a coin dated the year of my birth. Since no Silver Dollars were coined in 1917, the alternative and most appropriate coin was a 1917 Walking Liberty fifty cent piece. My daughters could have gotten me a foreign crown sized coin, but they are aware that I am a "Buy American" fanatic and they wouldn't dare.

Having selected an appropriate coin, the next phase was to find an engraver. After visiting several jewelry shops, they finally got an engraver that would undertake the task. The result is the engraved Love Token with the monogram AVP. It is interesting that it is still possible to get Love Tokens made in this day and age. All that is required is the perseverance and the desire to get the task accomplished. Have heart, all you Love Token aficionados, it is still possible to keep the art and tradition of Love Tokens alive and almost well.

You can appreciate why this token will always rate #1 in my collection and adage, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" truly applied to this plain, but beautiful Love Token.



*Love tokens continued*



**2. Elaborate Monogram — LJY — Script.**

Although this Love Token is not an engraved coin in the classical definition, it is without a doubt a Love Token. The 1845 Large Copper Cent was planed on one side and instead of engraving the monogram on the smooth surface, the initials LJY were made of silver and then layered on the planed surface. Considering the engraving tools available at the time, this is truly a work of art. I can only assume that a layer of silver metal was adhered to the copper coin and then the initials were engraved as shown. So, although the initials were embossed in the copper coin, the method of achieving the end result was the engraving of the initials from the silver layer (or possibly another coin) that has been adhered to the copper coin's surface. One can readily appreciate the effort and craftsmanship involved in the manufacture of this specific coin. I hope the recipient appreciated the effort involved in its design and engraving.

**3. Fancy Monogram — EC — Gothic Elaborate**



**Background.** This small token is truly an example of an engraver's work of art. Although the monogram "EC" is not ornate, the background engraving can be classified as elaborate. At first look, the contrast between the engraved and un-engraved surfaces gives the appearance of being an enameled surface, consisting of black enamel and plain surface. Upon closer view of the Love Token,

this black/plain contrast is achieved by the depth and angle of the engraved surfaces. At the top of the coin, an eyelet was soldered so that the Love Token could be worn as a necklace. I hope "EC" was as deeply impressed with the quality of workmanship as I was when I purchased it.



**4. Fancy Monogram — LC — Script-Interwined on an 1831 Bust Half Dollar.** The reason this Love Token is also one of my favorites is because my prime numismatic avocation is collecting Bust Half Dollars from 1807-1836. Being a member of the Bust Half Nut Club, any Bust Half in any shape or form is a collectible to me. When I can combine both avocations in one piece, surely this is a serendipity in every sense. However, that is only half of the story of this fine collectible. The other half is that this particular Bust Half is not a true coin of the realm, but is actually a cast counterfeit coin. Can you imagine an individual spending a week's wages (in 1831, it represented a week's salary), having it engraved with the monogram, which also was enameled with a dipped background, *all on a counterfeit coin*. I hope and pray that both the donor and recipient, "CL," were not aware that the coin was counterfeit. I doubt that the three parties involved were ever aware that the coin was counterfeit, unless of course, one of the three, had a devious mind and objective. However, let us



*Love tokens continued*

assume for altruistic rationalization that all parties involved were not aware that such a beautiful Love Token was engraved on a counterfeit coin.

**5. Plain Name — Helen — Block Letter on a Stick Pin** (not shown). The second major classification of Love Tokens are those on which a name, title or message is engraved on a planed surface of the coin. The coin was then mounted on a stick pin and probably used either on a lapel or neck scarf. Scarves were used extensively during the heyday of Love Tokens and as such, had a utilitarian application in the dress of that period. In addition to Love Tokens being made on planed coins, they appear in numerous other forms, such as bracelets, stick pins, lapel pins, necklaces, cuff links and even earrings. Love Tokens really got extensive use as jewelry of the period, so in many cases the application was twofold, namely as jewelry and expressions of affection. The reason you will see so many Love Tokens with holes drilled in them was so they could be mounted or worn in bracelets similar to charm bracelets.

**6. Plain — Name — Eva — Elaborate Florida Scenic Background.** This



rather ornate Love Token is a combination of many various techniques used in displaying the engraver's craftsmanship. It can only be assumed that the donor of this coin could only afford a minor coin (10 cents), but wanted the art to be of high quality. Thus, we see the capabilities of the engraver, using rudimentary tools performing some masterful designs — arcs, sawtooths and various floral designs. It should also be noted that two holes were drilled in a bracelet or a stick pin arrangement. The amazing thing about Love Tokens (which number in the tens of thousands), is that you will

seldom see a repeated design, unless it was originally intended as a matched pair, such as cufflinks.



**7. Plain Monogram — A Block with Floral Scene Design.** Needless to say, at this stage of the article, you can readily appreciate why I selected the initial "A" as one of my favorite Love Token pieces. In addition, in the broad category of scenic Love Tokens, there are many types. The favorite scenic Love Tokens were either engravings of scenery such as natural objects (trees, flowers, landscapes) and man-made objects (boats, houses, etc.). Since the object of the Love Token was an expression of affection, scenic tokens normally displayed endearing pictorial scenes, possibly relating to their relationship or a location of fond memories.



**8. Elaborate Scenic — Pastoral Scene.** Without doubt, one of the most beautiful and decorative scenic Love Tokens I have seen is this country farmland scenic. What also makes this unusual is that it is not an



engraved coin but a painted scene on a planed surface Mexican coin. Unfortunately, this beautiful Love Token is not in my collection, but in the proud possession of token collector James Partin, a fellow Central Florida Coin Club member and a member of the Board of Directors of FUN. All efforts to try to negotiate Jim out of this memorable, one-of-a-kind scenic Love Token ended in dismal failure.

The Love Tokens described above are classified as true Love Tokens. However, under the broad definition that all engraved coins are classified Love Tokens, we find many special events and activities, engraved thereon and called Love Tokens. The following examples will illustrate some of my so-called special event, quasi type Love Tokens.



**9. Obituary Token — Plain— Block Print.** These engraved pieces evolved to recall and commemorate the death of a relative or friend or in many cases, a highly regarded and esteemed public official. Perhaps one of the most popular obituary pieces of the very early 20th century was that commemorating the death of Queen Victoria on January 22, 1901. The English were quite proud of their longest reigning Queen and commemorated her death quite appropriately. This obituary token was normally engraved on a 1901 English Large Penny.

**10. Obituary Token — Plain Block Letters.** This is another variation of the Love Token, which is inscribed "REMEMBER" and the date 3.4.78. When I first



purchased this token from the famous token dealer, Paul Bosco, I read the date as 5.4.78 which happens to be the month and day of my birthday. (No. 1878 is not my birth year!) However, when I got home and looked at the date closely, the date was 3.4.78, not 5.4.78. It has remained in my collection as one of my favorites. I imagine that this token was carried by a relative for a long period of time as a remembrance of a loved one.



**11. Mourning Pin — Monogram — D — Elaborate.** Perhaps the most consistently ornately engraved Love Tokens are those classified as Mourning Pins. This specimen is truly unique and a very practical application of the engraved token. These are normally lapel pins on which the initial of the deceased was worn by the bereaved. These mourning pins were elaborate art pieces and the initial was normally made of black enamel. The portrayed example has an elaborate large Gothic initial "D" with an exquisite and intricate background design. It also has a black enameled circle border. The engraved design is on a planed surface of an 1854 Seated Liberty 25-cent piece with a pin for wearing on the lapel of a suit or coat. This is truly an intricate design and has to be viewed visually to appreciate the detailed art work. The design is do outstanding, you almost feel like you would like to frame it.



*Love tokens continued*



**12. Special Event—Lord's Prayer Engraved on reverse of a Winged Liberty (Mercury) Dime.** The amazing feature of this unique engraved token is that the lettering is completely legible. In my specific case, a magnifying glass significantly enhanced my ability to read the engraved print. If I need a magnifier to read the print imagine the complexity involved in trying to engrave this coin. The interesting background on this coin is that I received it as a gift from a Jewish friend of mine as a Christmas gift. Although it is a Protestant version of the Lord's Prayer, as a Catholic it is still one of my most treasured special event Love Tokens and will never be sold from my collection.



**13. Special Event— 100 Yd. Award to J. Wahl — G.H.S. 1922 — Plain Block.** This is an interesting engraved special event token which was engraved on a quarter size silver coin with the title "Western Province Inter-School-Championships." I am sure it has an interesting story to tell, but where one could possibly track down the original source is beyond my resources. The name "J. Wahl," should make it a great deal simpler than, say a Johnson or a Smith. The unknown story behind so many of these engraved pieces is part of their appeal.

**14. Special Event — Ornately Engraved, Heraldic Shield on a Queen Victoria Six Pence Piece.** In addition



to the ornately engraved surfaces, the design appears to be some type of heraldic shield or family coat of arms. There are inlaid pieces of colored glass that make up the crest and background of the piece. The words engraved in the coin are "Moni-Soit-Qui-Mal-Y-Pense," which I have been told translates to "Anyone thinks bad is to be excluded." The story behind this unique engraved piece would truly make interesting reading. Any comments from readers who could shed light on this piece would be appreciated.



**15. Special Event — World War I Engraved Identification Tag.** Dottie Mae on the Obverse. Serial #765170—Type A on the Reverse. It appears that it was general practice during WWI for soldiers to have the name of a loved one (in this case Dottie Mae) engraved on their identification tags, generally called "Dog Tags" by the wearers. I assume with the time and patience, this specific Serial #765170 could be traced to an individual. However, considering this goes back to 1916-1918, it is doubtful that much information could be obtained from Uncle Sam's data files. Apparently, the United States never was concerned in producing "attractive" identification tags and I can vouch for the fact they weren't any more attractive during WWII.

This highlights some of the more unique and interesting Love Tokens in my



collection. However, it does not exhaust the stories that could be related of the other Love Tokens in my collection.

Love Tokens, besides being an interesting and diverse avocation are extremely affordable. The great majority of Love Tokens can be purchased for less than \$10. In my Spring 1990 *FUN-Topics* article, I have listed the price range and valuation factors of Love Tokens.

Interesting articles, the Love Tokens Society and a comprehensive book on Love Tokens by the Love Token Society are listed in the following reference section of this article.

### References

•"Love Tokens—Engraving Techniques and Price Valuation Factors," by Tony. Spring 1990 *FUN-Topics*.

•"The Centimental Token," *ANA First Strike* magazine, Vol. III, No. 1.

•"Love Tokens as Engraved Coins." by Lloyd Entenmann, 130 Cornell Rd., Audubon, NJ 08106. Comprehensive 235-page book.

•Love Token Society, Pres. Lloyd Entenmann. Same address as above. 300-member group dedicated to Love Tokens as collectibles



### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you are planning to move, or have already moved, please notify the secretary. If we do not have your correct address the Post Office will return the mail to the secretary or the Love Letter Editor. If there is an incorrect address in the data base, the labels for the Love Letter will be wrong. Therefore, it is in the best interest to make sure that your correct address in the label data base maintained by the secretary.

### DUES ARE \$10.00 PER YEAR

This is a reminder to all members that have not paid their dues for 1991. If they are not received by April 30, 1992, you will be suspended. Your name will not be listed in the new directory that will be issued in May.

### BACK COPIES ANYONE?

Some members have asked if it were possible to get back issues of the Love Letters. Yes, I do have a few extra copies of earlier Love Letters, but not all issues are available. The earliest Love Letter available is #106, dated March/April 1986. As the quantities are limited orders will be filled on a first come first serve basis. The only cost to members will be the cost of postage, a \$ .29 per copy. Stamps will be acceptable up to 4 copies. If you are requesting more than four copies, please make the check payable to the Love Token Society for the proper amount. **DO NOT SEND A STAMPED ENVELOPE AS THE LETTERS MAY NOT FIT.** If any member would want a complete set, the issues before LL #106 would require photocopying the earlier copies in the archives set. The cost would have to be determined and paid for in advance.

### WANTED

To correspond with any collectors who purchased love tokens through the February 12, 1992 Stack's Coin Gallery Auction (New York).

Also desire "SCENIC" love tokens in any denomination. Premiums paid for special coins. Will also buy coins with T, B, TAB, TOM, BETTY OR BETTY ANN. Will also buy love token jewelry. Call or write: Tom Baxter, PO Box 677, Wheatley Heights, NY 11798, (516)454-9067 evenings, (516)293-2576 messages.



# Financial Statement

## GENERAL FUNDS

Balance January 31, 1992		\$7,063.62
Receipts		\$160.00
New Members		\$ 80.00
Interest (Bank Accounts)		\$ 41.75
Total Receipts		<u>\$ 281.75</u>
Sub-Total		\$7,345.37
Expenses		
Check #110	VOIDED	\$
Check #111	Postmaster HV postage stamps	87.00
Check #112	Canadian Numismatic Assoc.	30.00
Check #113	LL #139 Dr. R. C. Newhouse	172.85
Check #114	L.L. Entenmann photocopies, etc.	69.80
Check Processing fees & other charges		16.79
Total Expenses		<u>\$ 376.44</u>
Balance March 31, 1992		\$6,968.93

## PERMANENT FUND

### Life Membership Account

Audubon Savings & Loan Association	
1 Year Certificate of Deposit	\$ 432.88

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership - January 31, 1992	287
New Members	8
Resigned	<u>2</u>
Membership - March 31, 1992	293

## NEW MEMBERS

Tom Baxter  
 Mark Wayne  
 Shirley R. Stafford  
 Dennis Witter  
 Thomas Vincent  
 Martha E. Miller  
 William T. Harris  
 Rich Hartzog

Charles H. Godfrey, Secretary-Treasurer



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**Love Token Society Love Letter**  
**Dr. Robert C. Newhouse**  
**3200 Ella Lane**  
**Manhattan, KS 66502**





# Love Token Society

# LOVE LETTER



No. 141

June 1992

## Love Token Society Officers

### **President**

Lloyd L. Entenmann  
130 Cornell Road  
Audubon, NJ 08106  
609-547-2857

### **Vice President**

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### **Secretary/Treasurer**

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### **Love Letter Editor**

Robert C. Newhouse  
3200 Ella Lane  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
913-539-1831

### **Love Letter Design**

Mary Hammel  
Manhattan, KS

## A Capped Bust Half Love Token?

by Edgar E. Souders

The dust was still in the air, from the now waiting wagon, as he handed her the token of his affection. Calvin and Lydia's initials had been skillfully engraved and enameled on the planed reverse of the 1831 Capped Bust half-dollar. "L" and "C" were now eternally bonded.

"I'll be back Lydia," Calvin shouted as the wagon pulled away.

Lydia stood there clutching the token until the wagon passed over the horizon. Then, after a moment, she opened her hand to view her new possession.

"Hey! Wait a minute Calvin. What's this?" she yelled.

And so, the story may have gone something like this so many years ago. But wait, there is more:

Every once in a while something odd comes across my desk that begs to have an article written about it. And this soon to be discussed object was just "something."

One Tuesday the mail brought a small package from Anthony Vigliotta (Capped Bust half-dollar specialist/author/and Editor of the BHNC Newsletter). The letter read, in part:

"Edgar, enclosed. . . is a love token. It is a beautiful enameled token. You may want to take some photo's of it as it is a rather unique piece."

I removed the fancy engraved/enameled love token from the flip for a closer examination. The work was excellent—very detailed and precise.

As many of you know, love tokens were quite common in days gone by. Oftentime they were designed with the intention of professing one's love to a member of the opposite sex.

Coins of the era were planed down on one or both sides and initials (often intertwined), names, a message or a picture was engraved onto the smooth side—thus creating the token/love piece. These were then turned into a brooch pin, lapel pin, necklace pendant, bracelet or cuff links.

Interestingly, the vast majority of love tokens found today were

*A Capped Bust Half Love Token? continued on page 3*



## President's Message

by Lloyd L. Entenmann

Now that the warm weather is upon us and there are coin shows galore, we are busy looking out for those special love tokens we have been yearning to find. There are a number of available in this Love Letter and there should be many more available at the annual ANA convention in Orlando. I hope you will be able to attend. If you do, please stop by the Society's booth on the floor and attend our annual meeting of the Society on Friday at 2:00 p.m.

The book sales are still very slow, with half of the members still not having purchased a copy. This is an indication to me that you are not interested, and consequently, the information that I have accumulated for a supplement will be tabled. Those who have purchased the book have praised it very highly and will benefit from its contents. It does contain a great deal of interesting and informative information and should be of a great value to those who have it. Advertising is extremely expensive and tends to drive up the price still further. Therefore the advertising is being cut back and when this printing is ended, there will be no reprinting.

There are still a great deal of interesting love token items out there if you can find them. For example, at the ANA Dallas Mid-Winter show I purchased a beautifully engraved \$20.00 gold love token with a loop. One reason I purchased it was because it intrigued me with the engraving which I felt offered a chance for research. I am still working on it, and believe I have tracked it down to the city of its origin and I also have a good lead on the donor and am now working on the individual to whom it was presented. This is a challenge and is most interesting as you proceed with each bit of information you uncover. Try it sometime! I am sure you will find it most interesting and rewarding.

I cannot afford to travel too much anymore, but when I do it seems like I am known as "the love token man." However in my limited travels (mostly local) I am meeting a number of people who are metal detector "bugs," and a number of them have found love tokens! Now here you

have two ways to go. Get them interested in collecting love tokens or purchase the ones they have and do not care to collect! I recently picked up a very interesting Queen Victoria shilling inserted in a thin narrow looped silver rim. One side has been smoothed and beautifully engraved in a scroll design "Gilbert McGibbon" and beneath the scroll is engraved "Sep, 3rd, 99." On the other side is mounted a cut-out silver horseshoe to the edge of the coin (not the outer rim) and around the portrait of Queen Victoria from about 6:30 around to about 5:30 and the thickness of the horseshoe is more than the thickness of the coin. It makes an interesting and attractive love token. You never know what you are going to find or where you will find it!

For you who like to photograph your love tokens, you know they are very difficult to photograph. I have a solution for single coins that seems very satisfactory. It is a Polaroid Collector's Camera unit, and is available through the ANA Money Store in Colorado Springs. The unit uses a standard Polaroid Spectra 2 Camera and the attached unit allows you to photograph both sides on the one film! And in actual size! The complete unit costs \$299.00 and the film comes in packs of 10 and cost about \$10.00 to \$11.00 per pack. This is the best thing I have come across yet, and I "love" it. Unfortunately, it is not suitable for bracelets, necklaces, or any large pieces that will not fit inside the base.

Well, that's about it for now. I have been laid up most of the time this year so far and have not been able to do very much except get way behind in my correspondence work. I hope the rest of the year shows a bit of improvement. I extend my best wishes to each and every one of you for a wonderful healthy, happy and productive summer and hope I can see some of you in Orlando. Good luck and happy hunting.

*Lloyd L. Entenmann*



*A Capped Bust Half Love Token*  
Continued from page 1

made from Seated dimes, however, finding them on Seated quarters, half-dimes, and other denominations is not an uncommon occurrence. Nevertheless, it is quite uncommon to find a love token on a Capped Bust half-dollar.

So . . . did Calvin ever keep his word and return to Lydia? Tough to call in our little version of the story. You see Ol' Calvin may have been somewhat of a scoundrel. The 1831 half-dollar/love token is a counterfeit! That is, more correctly, that the love token portion is real, but the bustie is bogus!

This interesting piece is a cast contemporary counterfeit and appears to have been cast (two piece mold), from an original 1831 half-dollar (Obverse #1, used 0-101 and 0-102). The bogus piece weighs in light at just under 12 grams and is slightly under 32mm in diameter (likely due to the shrinking of the metal as it cooled in the mold). The obverse surface is granular.

So, dear reader, were Calvin's intentions toward Lydia honorable? Or was his love just as phony as his token? This time I think I will let you finish the ending—one of the "fun parts" about studying interesting specimens like this.

While we may never know the true story of this old odd piece (and perhaps it's better that way!), at the very least we have "a" story. Something better than simply saying, "I pulled it out of a junk box full of culls." For even the culls have stories to tell.

You say you do not want to finish the story? Ok . . . Ah, . . . what the heck . . . the wagon that took Calvin away was a wagon all right, a barred paddy wagon, because Ol' Calvin had just been convicted of counterfeiting — Forgive me Lydia! (Hey, it's my story!).

For those with an interest in these small expressions of miniature art and love you might wish to contact the Love Token Society. Also, LTS President, Lloyd Entenmann recently wrote a book on this very subject and it is a worthy addition to any numismatists library. You can send your inquiries to:

Love Token Society  
PO Box 1049  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

**Financial Statement**  
**General Funds**

Balance March 31, 1992      \$6968.93

Receipts	\$40.00
Dues	40.00
Donations	35.00
Interest (Bank Accts)	36.32
Adjustments	37.59

Total Receipts      \$148.91

Sub-Total      \$7117.84

Expenses	
Check #107 Voided	(\$30.00)
Check #115(Reissue #107)	30.00
Check #116 ANA Booth	
at Orlando	85.00
Check #117 LL #140	
Dr. R.C. Newhouse	173.50
Bank Charges	5.00

Total Expenses      \$263.50

Balance May 31, 1992      \$6854.34

**Permanent Fund**  
**Life Membership Account**  
**Audubon Savings & Loan**  
1 Year Cert. of Deposit      \$432.88

**Membership Report**

Membership — March 31, 1992	293
Suspended	15
Resigned	3
Deceased	<u>1</u>

Membership — May 31, 1992      274

Charles H. Godfrey  
Secretary-Treasurer



## Are You the One?

by Charles H. Godfrey

Do you like to talk to other collectors about your Love Tokens? Do you enjoy listening to other collectors talk about their Love Tokens? You do! Great! Then read on.

Last August at our annual meeting, the membership was told that I would not be a candidate for election as Secretary-Treasurer. When Sol Taylor resigned as editor of the Love Letter, our President, Lloyd L. Entenmann had to assume that duty. While acting as editor, the sudden death of our Secretary-Treasurer, Len Overcash, put an additional burden on Lloyd. When Lloyd prevailed upon me to help him out, by accepting the position of Secretary-Treasurer, it was difficult to say no to a friend of 50 years. But the consent was for a temporary basis only. Dorris and I are now making plans to do extensive traveling and pursuing the possibility of our long range goal, and I must relinquish all my current obligations.

Many enjoyable moments were had at various shows and conventions. It was a pleasure to meet and talk to our members from around the country. The Love Token Society is fortunate to have faithful members. Some members that have talked to me would enjoy the position as Secretary-Treasurer. They love to talk about their collection and listen to others tell of their favorite Love Tokens. We have many members in this category. It would be unfortunate, that at the expiration of my term, the responsibilities of Secretary would again rest on the shoulders of our President. All the information is computerized and should not be difficult for anyone. If you are interested or want more information call me at (215)947-4856 or write. Repeating the heading, "Are you the one?"

## Missouri Numismatic Society

The annual meeting of the Love Token Society will be held on Friday, August 14, 1992 at 2:00 p.m. at a meeting room assigned at the ANA Annual Convention being held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. In addition to the normal business there will be a nomination and election of officers (President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer) to serve the Society for the years 1993 and 1994. If you would care to serve in any office and cannot be present at the meeting, please advise the Secretary of a proxy to present your nomination.

Attest: Lloyd Entenmann  
President



## Update on Mary Hammel

Mary Hammel, the Love Letter designer, is doing better. She is now home, but is still having chemotherapy treatments. She thanks those of you who have sent cards and letters. Opening mail is the bright spot of her day. Her mailing address is 3224 Cloud Circle, Manhattan, KS 66502



## Comments on Book: Love Tokens as Engraved Coins

Excerpts from letters received from member Bill Harris of Greensboro, North Carolina:

"I wanted to take a few minutes to formally express my appreciation to you for the excellent work you did on "Love Tokens as Engraved Coins." I received your book earlier this week and the weatherman cooperated with a rainy Sunday, which afforded me plenty of time to read it cover to cover in one sitting. While the history and evolution of the love token were interesting I found the information on categories and the descriptions of specific tokens to be fascinating. Several times I caught myself daydreaming on other plausible interpretations for the described engravings.

"Your book being the first on love tokens is an accomplishment to be proud of and hopefully in the future there will be additional works from you or others to further the knowledge of this area of collecting. I know for myself I have a new enthusiasm for collecting these items due to your research and I'm looking forward to someday having an interesting, meaningful collection.

"Thank you again for an enjoyable rainy Sunday and opening my eyes to the world of love tokens."

Another quote from member Marilyn Wilson, of Clinton, Ohio in a recent letter:

"I love your book. I'm re-reading it now & refer to the book all the time. I especially enjoyed all the history you uncovered in your search, & really enjoy the American love tokens as jewelry."

"I really can't believe our own members ordered so few. It is their loss because the book is great!"

## Love Tokens for Sale

In addition to the two pages of love tokens available shown elsewhere, just received is also an 1883 silver dollar shown here. It has two odd holes, one at 6 o'clock which is 2 cm in diameter on the obverse but only 1 cm on the reverse; and the other hole is 2.5 cm through but on the obverse has a second hole started 1.5 cm in diameter but only part way through adjoining the larger hole at about 7 o'clock. The initials are "BSH." Reverse has light marks from a pin back which has been removed. The asking price for this piece is \$70.00.

If you are interested in any of these love tokens, please contact Lloyd Entenmann as soon as possible, as first request gets! Don't forget to send postage, insurance and handling as follows: tokens up to \$50 — add \$1.50; up to \$100 — add \$2.75; up to \$150 — add \$3.50; up to \$200 — add \$4.50; up to \$300 — add \$5.00.





## **ANA Orlando Love Token Exhibits**

Have you registered for your love token exhibit at the ANA Orlando Annual Convention? Exhibiting is such fun and enjoyable, once you have exhibited. And the ANA annual is especially rewarding as there are three plaques awarded for just love token exhibits! Do your part to uphold the reputation of the Society in ANA and support the Society and be rewarded as well.

### **Loven Token Society Booth at the ANA Orlando**

The Society will maintain a booth on the floor of the bourse at the Orlando ANA Convention in Orlando, Florida, August 12-16, 1992. This booth serves no purpose unless it is manned with a representative of the Society. All members who attend the convention are requested to put in as much time at the booth as possible so that everyone can get around on the floor and see what is available, and to make personal contacts. It also provides you with a comfortable place to rest your weary feet for an hour or two, and still be able to greet old friends and meet new ones. Your President will greatly appreciate your support!

## **Footnotes to Love Tokens Available**

- 1 Engraved in script: "From/Father to Maud/April 13, 1907"
- 3 U.S. quarter; engraved in script: "HMP/Jan 23, 90"
- 4 A working pin, U.S. Dime cut-out leaving initials SM
- 5 Reverse also fully engraved with design and 1887 in center

Please send requests to Lloyd L. Entenmann, 130 Cornell Road, Audubon, NJ, 08106 and don't forget the postage and insurance: tokens up to \$50 — add \$1.50; up to \$100 — add \$2.75; up to \$150 — add \$3.50; up to \$200 — add \$4.50; up to \$300 — add \$5.00; up to \$400.00 add — \$7.00; up to \$500.00 and above add \$8.75.

## **What's a Scenic Love Token Worth?**

**by Sol Taylor**

In the past few months I managed to purchase and resell several scenic love tokens—the most valued and highest priced of the love token genre.

For several dimes with two to four holes each, I sold (with multiple offers) for \$15 and for pieces with no holes upwards of \$20. I know from dealers who have also handled such pieces recently, that collectors will pay even up to \$25 for scenic dimes—especially if the topic of the engraving is very specific. For example, the high wheeler bicycle can command \$40 and \$50

*Scenic Love Tokens continued on page 7*

## The Bar Mitzvah Love Tokens

by Sol Taylor

A pair of gold love tokens passed through my hands some 15 years ago. They were made for a bar mitzvah (a Jewish boy's ritual at age thirteen). Both were made undoubtedly by the same jeweler for closely occurring bar mitzvahs. One was a \$2 1/2 gold incased in a gold (14K) holder (such as encased coins) with the name of the boy in English and Hebrew and dated (I believe around 1917). The ring had a loop to be worn as a pendant perhaps. The coin itself I recall was a Liberty head \$2 1/2 and may or may not have the boy's initials engraved. I did not own it long enough to make a drawing or attempt to Xerox it. It sold quickly.

A matching \$5 Liberty head piece (maybe an Indian) was also found at about the same time in the same dealer's case with another boy's name and suitable Hebrew inscriptions on the 14K gold ring. Again, it sold quickly.

Anyone aware of the location of these pieces? If so, can you render a drawing for LTS? Anyone aware of any other bar mitzvah love tokens? I am an eager buyer. I am also a buyer of any love tokens with Hebrew letters, words or inscriptions. Several clients have asked me to seek them out of hiding. They are few and far between.

*Scenic Love tokens continued from page 6*

since based upon my studies there may only be a dozen or so such pieces extant.

For engraved quarters with scenes, I noted sales (from other dealer stocks) of sales in the \$30 to \$45 range. These are general scenics such as: flying birds, a dog, other animals, human figures, pastoral or beach scenes, and symbols such as stars, crescents, shields, Masonics, flowers, and buildings. For certain specialized scenics: guns, tools, World's Fair themes, combined scenics and messages, and historical scenics, these can go four to ten times the usual price for the denomination.

Very few scenics are known on half dollars and perhaps a few more on silver dollars. These bring high prices since they are both scarce and beautiful.

Whenever I have found scenics for sale, I have tried to buy them. Some dealers have asked far more than their true value. But those who were willing to sell such pieces, I have had no trouble in finding ready and willing collectors for each piece. Scenics may represent as much as ten percent of all love tokens—perhaps much less—and their real value has hardly met the test of the market. These pieces—unlike common type coins and monogram love tokens—tend to not show up on the market once sold. Collectors tend to hang onto their scenics for LIFE. The recent accumulation I bought from the widow of a California collector who bought many from the Maurice Gould estate which I sold in 1976 and 1977. And those who just bought these pieces probably intend to keep them MANY years.





#665 \$8.  1853 EJA	#667 \$7.  1883 CEF	#669 \$7.  1877 EJA	#670 \$8.  1875 NWG	#671 \$8.  1888 MH	#673 \$7.  1875 MAP	#674 \$8.  1890 HJR
#677 \$8.  1891 EJA	#678 \$7.  1876 VBU	#682 \$8.  1875 LIS	#683 \$7.  1875 WV	#684 \$6.  "Y" A	#685 \$6.  smo WE?	#686 \$8.  ? SLH
#688 \$6.  smo H?	#689 \$8.  1876 ENL	#692¢ \$5.  ¢ ?NP	#695¢ \$5.  1857 W	#697 \$8.  1875 GMK	#698 \$8.  1856 GHC	#699 \$8.  1875 STCC
#703 \$7.  gn 1877 HG	#704 \$8.  1883 CER	#709 \$8.  1888 NEC	#712 \$8.  ? DHI	#718 \$8.  1875 CWC	#719 \$7.  1853 WS	#720 \$8.  1876 WEM
#721 \$8.  1884 JAH	#724 \$8.  1877 MMN	#725 \$8.  1875 PCW	#726 \$8.  1874 BHD	#727 \$8.  ? AND	#728 \$8.  1883 EWS	#729 \$8.  1877 DCF
#730 \$8.  1886 HAL	#731 \$8.  1875 FJCS	#732 \$7.  1877 CHW	#733 \$7.  ? ILM	#737 \$8.  smo MN	#738 \$8.  1875 AHL	#739 \$8.  1876 FGM
#740 \$8.  1888 ACC	#741 \$8.  1876 DFG	#743 \$8.  1875 FWP	#744 \$8.  1876 TCN	#746 \$8.  1884 DSK	#747 \$8.  ML DJ	#749 \$8.  1877 MLT



#750 \$8.  1853 SWT	#752 \$8.  1876 MGF	#753 \$8.  1883 HM	#754 \$8.  1872 BW	#755 \$8.  1887 SH	#756 \$7.  1883 AF	#757 \$7  smo ABB
#758 \$8.  1889 PHF	#759 \$7  ? CEH	#E38 \$8  1877 FNC	#WH3 \$7  1887 WL	#13 \$7.  Kittie 1853	#14 \$8.  1883 FJ	#15 \$8.  1892 DCH

#1 \$65.  1922 Peace LVE	#2 \$55.  1902 25 CWA 1903	#4 \$60.  1885 PB	#5 \$70.  1886 LCH	#12 12.  #3
#6 \$75.  1879 MP working pin	#7 \$50  1891 (*1)	#9 \$20.  Half D.L. 1872 FE	#15 \$10  ? SM (*4)	#16 \$10  1887 DWG (*3)
#29 \$15.  Cand. 20¢ FD	#30 \$20.  Cand. 25¢ AHB	#34 \$25.  Cand. 50¢ CH	#24 \$20.  Spain 4 real RAB	#17 \$13  1883 Sarah
#33 \$35.  Gold M <sup>3</sup> 502	#31 \$20.  Libbie Cal. gold 25¢			





**Love Token Society Love Letter**

Dr. Robert C. Newhouse  
3200 Ella Lane  
Manhattan, KS 66502

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# Love Token Society

# LOVE LETTER



No. 142

August 1992

## Love Token Society Officers

### **President**

Lloyd L. Entenmann  
130 Cornell Road  
Audubon, NJ 08106  
609-547-2857

### **Vice President**

Doug Jennings  
2610 Summerfield Road  
Petersburg, MI 49270  
313-279-1728

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Charles H. Godfrey  
P.O. Box 1049  
Huntington Valley, PA  
19006  
215-947-4856

### **Love Letter Editor**

Robert C. Newhouse  
3200 Ella Lane  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
913-539-1831

### **Love Letter Design**

Mary Hammel  
Manhattan, KS

## An Open Letter to the Membership:

There are "people" and then there are "PEOPLE." The president of the Love Token Society belongs to the latter group. I am certain that those of you who have contacted Mr. Entenmann, for whatever reason, have found that he will go above and beyond the call of duty to help you in any way that he possibly can. In addition to his involvement with an commitment to individual members, he is constantly promoting the Society via conventions, large and small organizations, and virtually anyone who will listen to him.

Mr. Entenmann's book, LOVE TOKENS AS ENGRAVED COINS, was written, as its dedication reads, "as a memorial to my wife whose death inspired this work to continue her dedication to love tokens." In effect, his sole purpose for writing this book is the very essence of what a love token is!

The book was financed by him as an aid to educate and help others who are interested in love tokens. It was a costly venture, one in which he had originally hoped to "break-even." However, if all of the books were sold, he would still not be able to recoup all of his printing and advertising expenses.

At the risk of offending him (and I will probably hear about it if I have!), I would like for the membership to know that our vibrant and tireless president is "no spring chicken" and has undergone five operations since November, with more to come. Under the same circumstances, how many of us would continue as president and maintain the tireless schedule of Society-related activities?

*Open Letter continued on page 4*



## President's Message

### by Lloyd L. Entenmann

It doesn't seem possible but our annual meeting time is again upon us. At this meeting we will elect the officers to conduct the affairs of the Society for the calendar years 1993 and 1994. I have appointed a nominating committee who will submit their report at the meeting, however the By-Laws allow nominations from the floor. If you feel you would like to take a part in the affairs of the Society, please contact me if you cannot be at the Orlando meeting. If all the officers perform their respective duties, the burden on each is lessened, but when you have to cover up, it becomes burdensome. This year I complete my fourth term, that is eight years, as President. While I enjoy the responsibility, I will not be able to continue much longer. Already my health is failing, having had five operations in the last seven months, and am facing a possible one or two more. While I love what I am doing, the Society is not my Society—it is OURS. Please show more interest and cooperation.

The book is not moving, exactly one-third of the printing is in circulation, the other two-thirds are sitting in my living room, which represents over \$35,000 not earning income for me. Thirty percent of the membership has not purchased a copy. I have had several book reviews highly praising the work, and quite a number of our Members have highly praised it. Praise is welcome but it does not pay bills.

The Society will again have a booth on the floor in Orlando and will hold its annual meeting on Friday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. If you attend the show, please attend the meeting! Also if you can spend an hour or two in the booth, I will greatly appreciate it, as I like to see what dealers have in the way of love tokens as well as you do.

At the time I am writing this letter there is a problem at the Orlando show in that the State of Florida has imposed a 6% sales tax on all coins and bullion. The ANA is desperately trying to get an exemption but prospects are rather dim. I will have a number of love tokens for sale, but other arrangements may have to be made for payment and delivery.

The Editor is desperately in need of news items and articles for the Love Letter. They can be of any length. If you want help or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact the Editor or myself. We will be only too glad to give you all the assistance you need.

We had planned a regional Love Token Society meeting in conjunction with the Canadian Numismatic Association in Quebec, but our Canadian Director is physically unable, and I cannot afford to attend, so the plans have been scrapped. Again, it takes more than one pair of hands to make these things happen! What are you contributing?

*Lloyd L. Entenmann*



# Financial Statement

## General Funds

Balance May 31, 1992	\$6,854.34
<b>Receipts</b>	
New Members	\$20.00
Dues	10.00
Donations	20.00
Interest (Bank Account)	59.31
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u>\$ 109.31</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$6,963.65
<b>Expenses</b>	
Check #118 ANA 1/2 page add	\$90.00
Check #119 Postmaster HV	87.00
Check #120 LLE Printing directory	162.50
Check #121 Postmaster HV mailing	130.00
Check #122 R.C. Newhouse LL141	156.05
Check #123 ANA Membership Dues	30.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$ 655.55</u>
Balance July 31, 1992	\$6,308.10

## Permanent Fund Life Membership Account

Audubon Savings and Loan Association	
1 Year Certificate of Deposit	\$ 432.88

## Membership Report

Membership May 31, 1992	274
New Members	+2
Resigned	-1
Deceased	-1
	<hr/>
Membership July 31, 1992	274

New Members  
William Batarla  
Barbara Newhouse

Charles H. Godfrey, Secretary-Treasurer



## Annual Meeting and Election of New Officers

The annual meeting of the Love Token Society will be held on Friday, August 14, 1992 at 2:00 p.m. in the Orange County Convention and Civic Center in Orlando, Florida, in conjunction with the ANA 101st Anniversary Convention. Election of officers for the calendar years 1993 and 1994 will be held at this meeting. Nominations can be made from the floor for all offices.

The Society will also maintain a booth on the floor of the bourse all during the convention. Members who attend the show are requested to assist in manning the booth so that every one can get an opportunity to visit on the floor to see what the dealers have.

It is hoped we will have at least three love token exhibits entered in the competition, so that we will not jeopardize the endowed fund because of lack of interest.

**Remember this is your Society.**

*Open Letter continued from page 1*

Now, all of us have the opportunity to show our support of his work on behalf of *our* organization by ordering a copy of LOVE TOKENS AS ENGRAVED COINS. I find it embarrassing to the Society that at least half of its membership has not purchased a copy. So, instead of sending him a get-well card, please consider ordering a copy of his book.

Debbie Marcum  
Austin, Texas

## Canadian Numismatic Association Convention

The CNA was held in Montreal, Quebec the end of July. The Love Token Society had planned to have a regional meeting during that show. However a number of circumstances arose at the last minute and all plans had to be canceled. The Regional Director, Nancy Hall-Chapman, is having physical problems on top of moving complications, and could not get any other member to take over. Usually we have 15 to 20 attend these meetings. Your President wanted to go but he is having financial problems as well as physical problems.

Here again, the Canadian members all enjoy and appreciate attending the meetings, but when it comes to helping, out comes the book of excuses. If no one wants to do the work, the Society will die a natural death by expiration.



### Wanted Stringed Musical Instrument Scenic Love Tokens

My musical wife Marilyn collects these, and I would appreciate the opportunity to purchase any. Also, I am seeking "Jennifer", "JH", and "Marilyn" love tokens. Thanks! Rich Hartzog, POB 4143, Rockford, IL 61110

## Love Tokens on the Bid Board

I visit one or more coin shops each week and some have a weekly bid board. In recent weeks, I have seen some very nice love tokens on the board. Apparently, more than a few of the regular bidders like love tokens. Here are some recent sales figures from Mid-Valley Coins (Grenada Hills, CA).

Seated dime, XF, rev. Woman's high top show initials above \$20

Seated dime, AU, rev. Scenic, initials above, \$17.50

Seated dime, AU, rev, Small dog, name "Fifi" \$20

Seated dime, AU, rev. "Mitzy" florets above and below, \$15

Seated dime, XF, rev. side view of horse, "D" above, \$20

Seated dime, VF, rev. "jdm" fancy monogram, \$7.50

Seated dime, XF, rev. fancy monogram "BBH", \$6.50

Seated dime, XF, rev. script initials \$5.25

Seated dime, XF, rev. fancy "DOC" \$7.50

These pieces were from a single collector's holdings who passed away. Each piece was nicely done, no holes, no solder or other detractors.

Many collectors are beginning to recognize what a value most love tokens are. First, they are usually over 100 year old coins. Next, they are often in high grade. Finally, they show many cases of especially nice workmanship. If an engraver today were to take a silver dime, plane off

the reverse and engrave a name or monogram, the cost (not including the coin's cost) would run no less than \$50. Thus ALL the above prices are very reasonable. And they will get higher.

In two extensive studies of love token populations done in recent years by LTS, the total number of love tokens now in collectors hands is most likely less than the population of the 1909s VDB cent which in low grade sells for \$125 and up.

by Sol Taylor

## Love Tokens As Engraved Coins Order Form

This informative book is the result of almost two years of extensive research compiled in the U.S. and Great Britain. Included in 22 chapters within this information piece are facts on the art of engraving, how it is done, and how to distinguish modern machine engraving from hand engraving. The book also includes 375 illustrations.

Measuring 8 3/8" x 10 7/8", this fact-filled, soft cover book may be obtained direct from the Author at \$58.00, (this includes shipping). A MUST for every collector and anyone else who is interested in engraved coins.

Send check for \$58.00 to:  
Lloyd L. Entenmann  
130 Cornell Rd.  
Audubon, NJ 08106

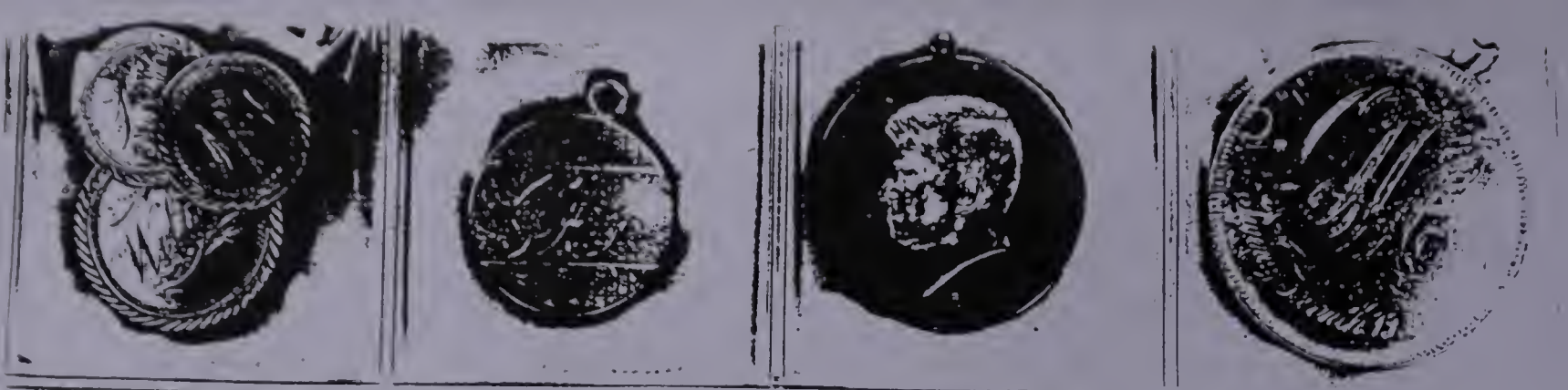
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Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

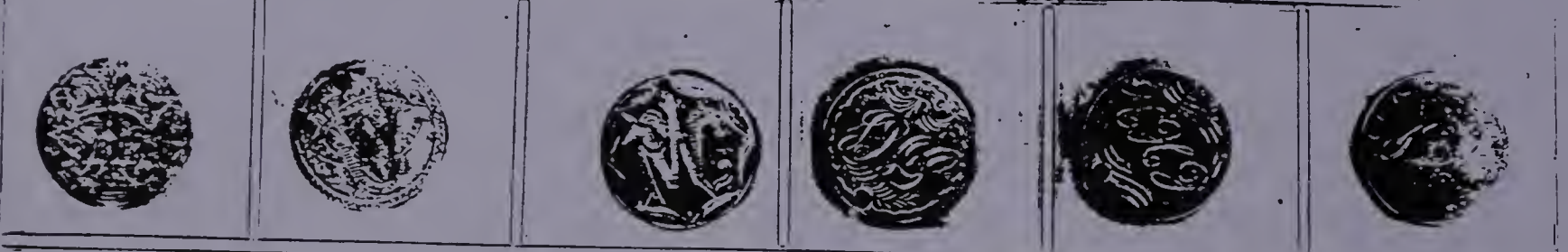




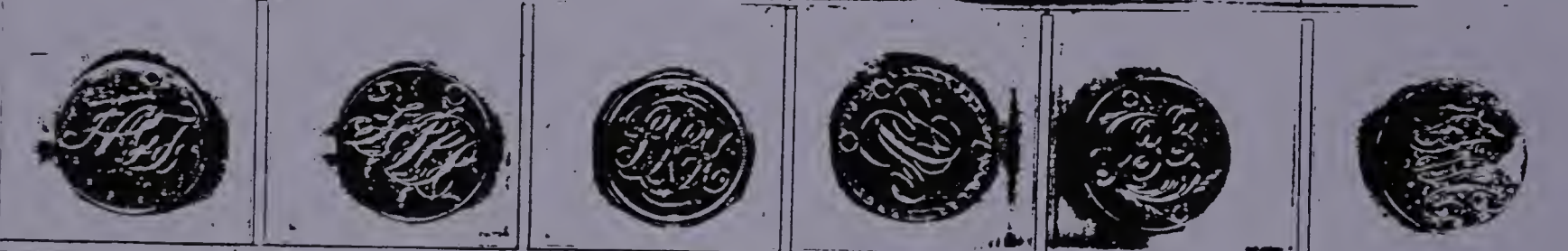
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										Twenty Second No. 3	



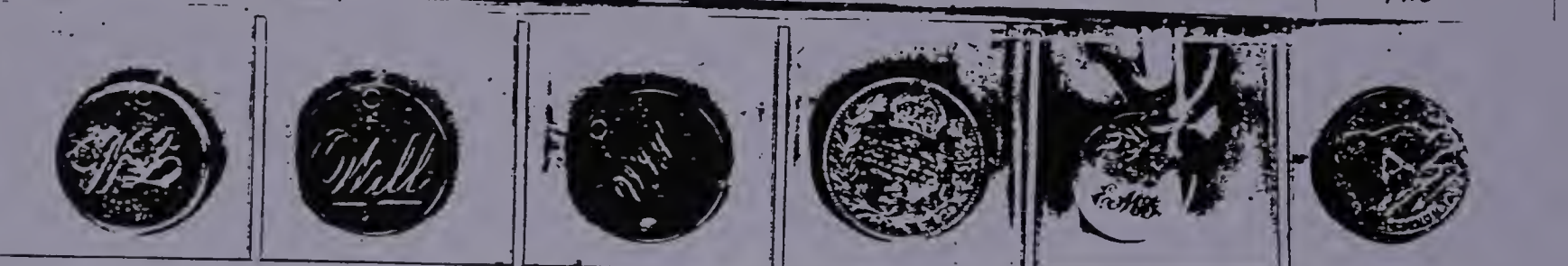
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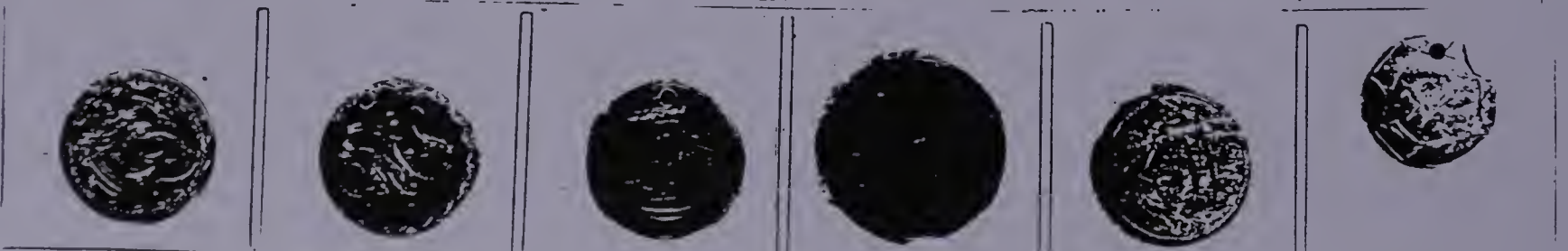
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#752	MGF	\$8.00	#753	HM	\$8.00	#755	SHK	\$8.00	#756	AP	\$7.00	#757	ABB	\$7.00	#E38	FNC	\$8.00
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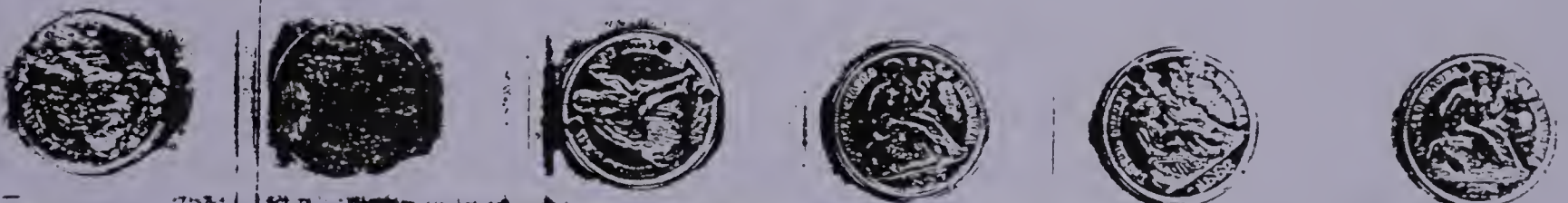
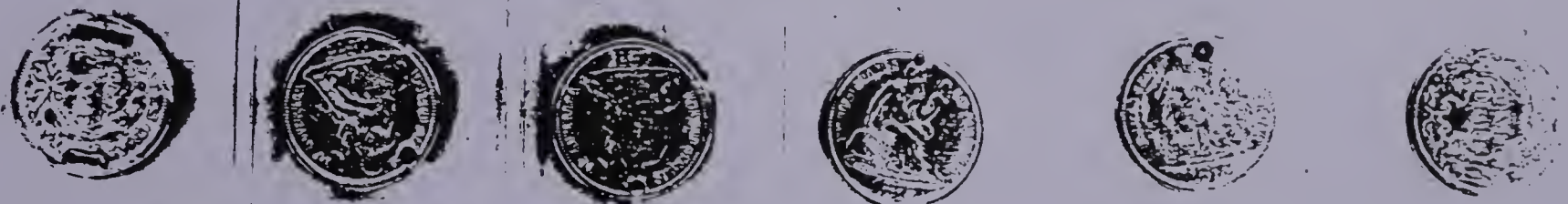
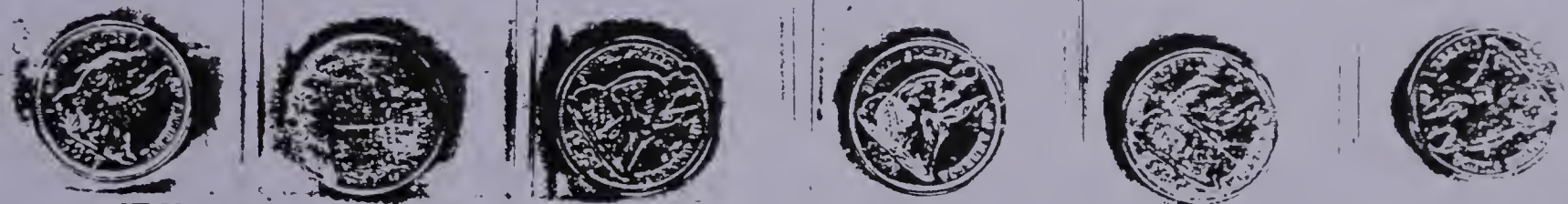


#WH3	WH	\$7.00	#WH-7	Will UNIFAC	\$7.00	#WH8	Rev 73	\$7.00	#L-6	Minerva G.B-6P	\$14.00	#JC-17	Fi	\$7.00	#JC-2	A	\$3.00
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#J6-7	WT	\$7.50	#J6-6	RHS	\$8.50	#J6-11	CW	\$8.00	#J6-3	LT V.N. 1st	\$7.50	#J6-12	CW	\$8.50	#J6-4	W	\$7.25
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REVERSON



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**Love Token Society Love Letter**  
Dr. Robert C. Newhouse  
3200 Ella Lane  
Manhattan, KS 66502





# Love Token Society

# LOVE LETTER



No. 143

October 1992

## Love Token Society Officers

### **President**

Lloyd L. Entenmann  
130 Cornell Road  
Audubon, NJ 08106  
609-547-2857

### **Vice President**

Doug Jennings  
2610 Summerfield Road  
Petersburg, MI 49270  
313-279-1728

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Charles H. Godfrey  
P.O. Box 1049  
Huntington Valley, PA  
19006  
215-947-4856

### **Love Letter Editor**

Robert C. Newhouse  
3200 Ella Lane  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
913-539-1831

### **Love Letter Design**

Mary Hammel  
Manhattan, KS

### **Love Letter Layout**

Paige Birdsley  
Manhattan, KS

## An Interesting, Inexpensive Hobby Just For You!

Everyone should have a hobby that holds the interest, is not expensive, and can require as much or as little time as you can devote to it. It must be interesting to you in order to keep your desire alive. It must be inexpensive, especially in this present time of high costs and limited funds. Fine so far! But what to collect that meets this criteria?

In today's living, money and power are the most driving force for survival, with money first. Money is also called the root of all evil, but it can be both good and bad! Money also ties into almost any hobby we choose to consider as our hobby. In what form do we want to look at it?

Just about everyone possesses a degree of sentiment, affection or love for someone. For the purpose of this discussion, let's go back about four centuries to see how people of this age expressed their love.

In the 1500's money was a prized possession, and did not circulate as it does today. It was used to purchase things you could not trade or bargain for, and was also hidden away as savings for a rainy day. When a boy and girl were dating, and he felt like a marriage was in their future, he wanted to give her something—but what? One young man in Wales who had a flair for painting pictures, got a bright idea to paint a picture on a piece of linen for his girlfriend. When he gave it to her she loved it and agreed to marry him! Thus the engagement gift came into being. While this custom became popular it was limited to young men with an ability in art, and thus it did not become too prolific. Boys who had a flair for woodwork or carving, got the idea to give their girls something that they carved out of a piece of wood. First it was a lace bobbin, (used to wrap her

*Hobby Continued on page 4*



## President's Message

by Lloyd L. Entenmann

It is with some difficulty that I am trying to get back into full swing now that Fall is upon us. On my third day home from the Orlando ANA annual convention, I had an accident at home in which I fell backwards and landed flat on my spine and fractured the L-1 vertebrae. So I spent the next three weeks in the hospital laying in a V-position in a hospital bed, popping pain killers. Now I am home and confined to the same position in a contour chair 24 hours a day. Starting this week I have been able to get to the typewriter but only for about 5 minutes at a time. The doctor says I'll be another 4 or 5 weeks before I can approach normalcy.

The ANA show was very disappointing. I thought the attendance was poor. At the Society's booth I felt like the Maytag repair man! I sold only one book, no love tokens, but did manage to sign up 7 new members.

At the annual meeting, we had about 12 in attendance. There were several interesting discussions. The election of officers went off very quickly as there was no competition. Mrs. Barbara Newhouse was elected Secretary-Treasurer, while all the other officers were reelected for another term. I personally expressed my thanks and appreciation to our retiring Secretary-Treasurer, Charles H. Godfrey, for the excellent job he did in discharging his duties. I hate to see him leave, but family obligations prevent him from continuing.

I was especially pleased at finding we had three excellent love token exhibits at Orlando. All three were the most beautiful I have ever seen, and I am glad I was not a judge. All three exhibitors are to be congratulated. Please refer to separate article in this bulletin

About two weeks before the Orlando convention I received a letter from the Token and Medals Society (TAMS) requesting, if possible, my attendance at their annual banquet in Orlando. I did attend, and what transpired there made the entire trip to Orlando most memorable. See separate article elsewhere in this bulletin.

Two new collector magazines have appeared on the market this year, and the Love Token Society is being featured in both of them. Again see separate article in this bulletin. The society needs media exposure, and I am trying very hard to get all I can. You can help also by getting local exposure in your home area. In newspapers, radio, TV, club or association newsletters, wherever you can. I have found that once you point out the love and affection attached to love tokens, editors and reporters are very prone to pay more attention.

The next show I hope to attend will be the FUN show in Orlando in January. I want to see a few love token exhibits at that show. Think about it now and be prepared to exhibit. Please let me know of your intentions. As has been our custom, we will also hold a regional Love Token Society meeting at this convention.

*Lloyd L. Entenmann*

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## Financial Statement

### General Funds

Balance July 31, 1992	\$6,308.10
Receipts	\$ 80.00
Dues	50.00
Interest (Bank Accounts	20.02
Book Contra (Check #124)	33.00

Total Receipts	<u>\$ 183.02</u>
Sub-Total	\$6,491.12

### Expenses

Check #124 L.L. Entenmann	33.00
(Book Contra)	
Check #125 R.C. Newhouse	273.58
LL 142 & bal 141	
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 306.58</u>
Balance September 30, 1992	\$6,184.54

### Permanent Fund

Audubon Savings & Loan Association	
I Year Certificate of Deposit	\$ 432.88

### Membership Report

Membership- July 31, 1992	274
New Members	<u>8</u>
Membership- September 30, 1992	282

### New Members

Walter W. Brodin  
Mark Gredler  
Dennis P. Wierzba  
Sherry Sklow  
Cathy Reghon  
Gayle McCaugherty  
Diane Menchell  
Martha V. Stevenson

Charles H. Godfrey  
Secretary-Treasurer

## Collector's Advantage

This is a new quarterly magazine which carries an ad for our new book, and for which your President is a contributing author. The first installment in a series appears in the first issue, September. The next installment is in the December issue.



### Collector's Elite Edition

A new bi-annual magazine made it's appearance this year, and the July-December issue carries an ad for the new book "Love Tokens as Engraved Coins" on page 25 underneath an article entitled "An Interesting, Inexpensive Hobby Just For You" which is concluded on page 41. This article is also reprinted in this bulletin.



### Love Tokens Available

At the last minute two lots of love tokens came in and are included in this Love Letter. Remember, if there are any you really want, it is best to call me on the telephone to reserve it or them if they are still available. They do go fast! Especially the nicer ones! Make check payable to me and send to my address: 130 Cornell Road, Audubon, NJ 08106, and don't forget to include postage and insurance. Orders up to \$50.00—\$1.25; up to \$100.00—\$2.75; up to \$150.00—\$3.50; up to \$200.00—\$4.50; up to \$300.00—\$5.50; up to \$400.00—\$7.00; and over \$400.00—\$8.75. My telephone number is 609-547-2857, day or night, I have an answering machine if not at home.

*Hobby continued from page 1*

thread upon to make lace), then the busk stay became popular, (a support to insert in a new corset to keep her figure slim and straight), then came the knitting sheath, (a piece to put under her arm or attach to a part of her attire so that she could knit and also perform another chore with the other hand at the same time). Finally came the wooden love spoon which was a strictly ornamental piece. All of these items were popular at the time but did not last too long as they were limited to the skills required, which many boys did not possess.

In the 1600's coinage began to become more plentiful. Then came the idea of using a coin from circulation as a token of affection from the boy to his girl (also vice versa). At first the coin was bent forward at the top and backward at the bottom so that it would not be spent when carried in the pocket or purse. Usually a silver coin was used as it was softer than the copper penny or half-penny. Today these pieces are referred to as "benders." Thus the coin taken from circulation became the "love token" as it is known today in the United States and Canada. It has gone through a number of changes along the way but the initial purpose is still preserved. At first, the coin was smoothed on one side (preferably the undated side) and pinpunched generally by the giver. As engraving skills became more popular the love tokens became more beautiful and used for a number of added purposes.

Before long, love tokens were made for members of the family or other

loved ones. Then they were made to commemorate various events, such as births, deaths, baptisms, prison sentences, hangings, scenes, occupational skills, flowers, etc. Simultaneously, jewelry pieces made from coinage came into being in the form of necklaces, bracelets, earrings, cufflinks, pins, stick pins, watch fobs, buttons, etc.

The custom in this country began near the beginning of the Civil War and became extremely popular until 1908 when the mint could not keep dimes in circulation and had Congress pass a law making it illegal to mutilate coinage. Every denomination of coin issued by the United States was used to make love tokens. By far most popular was the silver dime, then the silver quarter, half-dollar, dollar, and all denominations of gold coins. The custom was never resumed for two reasons. First, the coin had little buying power in today's economy and second, the metallic value of today's coins is nil.

The recipients of these love tokens are now all just about deceased, and many heirs have little sentimental feeling for tokens left to them. Since the tokens are mutilated, they no longer have any numismatic value, and being mutilated do not circulate and thus cannot be spent. They are therefore coming into the market as love tokens. They command a higher price than face value but not an exorbitant price. They can be found today in coin shops, flea markets, garage sales, antique shops, auctions, etc.

In 1972 a group of love token collec-

*Hobby continued on page 5*



*Hobby continued from page 5*

tors formed the Love Token Society. It's mission is to promote the collecting of love tokens, to assist one another in locating information on love tokens and to aid in the buying and selling of love tokens. There are generally two accepted criteria for a love token. One, it must be on a coin of the realm, and two, it must be hand engraved. There is practically nothing about value available in writing as each piece is as one-of-a-kind as the love it represented between two people.

Love Token collecting is a very interesting and inexpensive hobby. It is strictly a hobby because the tokens are not collected as an investment. They are not easy to find, and present a challenge to locate. There is no fixed pricing, as they are each a one-of-a-kind. The price is basically whatever the seller is willing to accept and the buyer is willing to pay. Dimes are by far most plentiful and generally run between \$5.00 and \$9.00 each, quarters are about \$8.00 and \$12.00 each. Once a new collector gets started, you will find he or she will tend to specialize in a certain type, that is; initials, names, scenes, flowers, dogs, horses, lighthouses, boats, bridges, jobs, etc.

The first known book on love tokens was released on May 31, 1991 after two and one-half years of research here and in Great Britain. It can be obtained from some coin dealers, or by contacting the Author Lloyd L. Entenmann, 130 Cornell Road, Audubon, NJ 08106 (Tel: 609-547-2857).

## Special Author Award

Each year the Tokens and Medal Society (TAMS) makes a number of awards at it's annual meeting during the ANA annual convention. For the first time in it's history, this year they made a special author's award for a book which was published in 1991 but did not qualify for an award under their categories, but they felt the book deserved recognition. The plaque was awarded to your President, Lloyd L. Entenmann, for his publication of "Love Tokens as Engraved Coins." He expressed his deep honor and appreciation for this recognition and thanked the Society for their consideration.



**Photo by Vince Alones**





## Annual Meeting Report

The annual meeting of the Love Token Society was held at the Orange County Civic and Convention Center, Orlando, Florida, on Friday, August 14, 1992, at 2:00 p.m.

The Minutes of our last annual meeting were read and approved as read. The President gave a report on the progress and condition of the Society. Our membership has remained steady, and our financial position is the best we have ever achieved. The sales of the first book on Love Tokens are very slow, and only just over one-half of the members have purchased a copy. This in spite of the fact that it is getting excellent reviews. The members were informed that the Token and Medal Society (TAMS) for the first time in its history awarded a special author's plaque to our President for publishing "his book *Love Tokens as Engraved Coins*. This descriptive history of a fascinating area of exnumia has greatly enriched the hobby." The plaque was displayed on the head table at the meeting.

The Editor, Dr. Robert C. Newhouse, gave a report on the status of the Love Letter, and advised that he is out of articles and desperately needs some for the next issue.

The nomination and election of Officers was then held. The report of the Nominating Committee was then read. There being no further nomination from the floor, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously passed that the acting secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees. The officers for the calendar years 1993

and 1994 are therefore:

President—Lloyd L. Entenmann  
Vice President—Douglas Jennings  
Secretary-Treasurer—Barbara  
Newhouse

President Entenmann then appointed Dr. Robert C. Newhouse as Editor for another two-year term.

Several interesting discussions were held on current topics after which the President invited the members to come to the head table and view a special love token exhibit he brought along to display

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



### Love Token exhibits at Orlando

The Love Token Society is deeply indebted to three of its members for placing the three most attractive love token exhibits that have been seen in a long time. First place plaque was awarded to Robert Mitchell of Winter Park, Florida, for a four case exhibit entitled "Examples of Love Tokens and Engraved Coins." Second place plaque was awarded to Agnes N. Alones of Floral Park, New York, for a one case exhibit entitled "My Tokens of Love." Third place plaque was awarded to Autence Bason of Greensboro, North Carolina, for a two case exhibit entitled "Love Tokens." Our most heartiest congratulations are due to all of them and we hope they continue to exhibit. A great many favorable comments were heard all during the convention about the wonderful love token exhibits!



## Secretary's Message

Several changes occurred during the past year, some fortunate, others unfortunate, that prevented my attendance at our annual meeting in Orlando. I missed not being able to meet and greet our members.

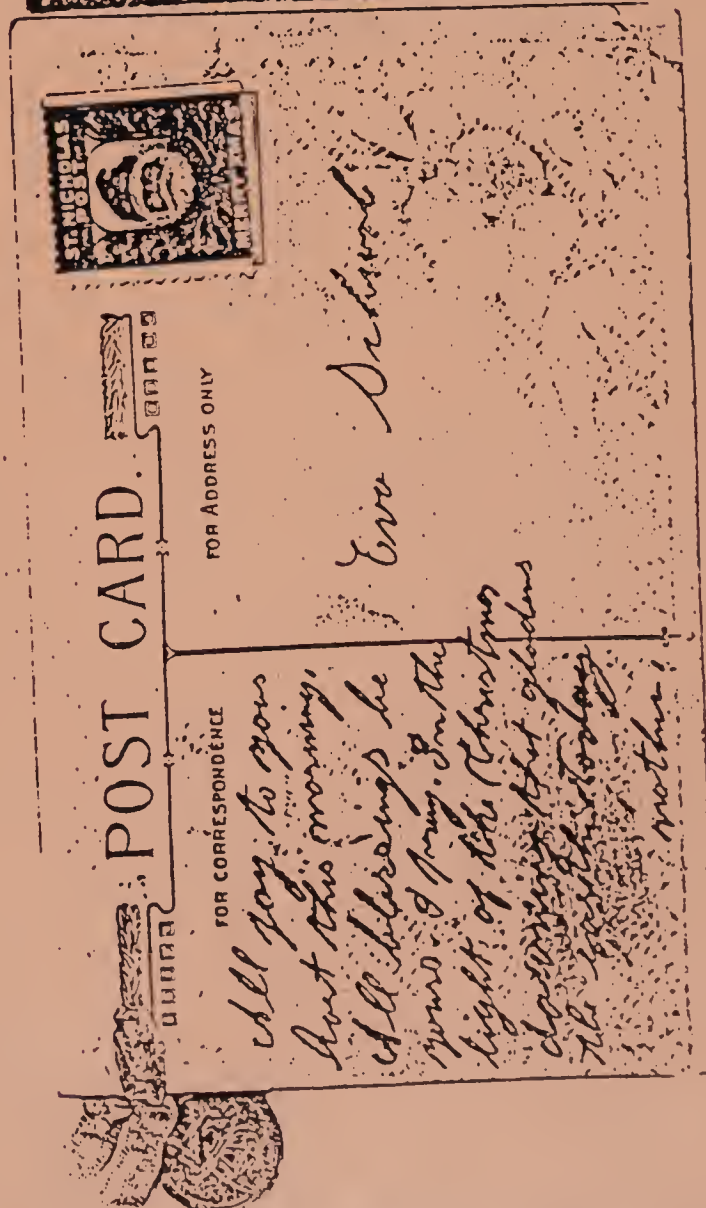
A most fortunate occurrence was an answer to my plea for a replacement as Secretary-Treasurer. As I announced at our Chicago meeting last year, I did not want to continue in this position, as I accepted it on a temporary basis. Therefore I felt honored to be asked by our President, Lloyd L. Entenmann, to be Chairman of the nominating committee. It was with great pleasure that I placed in nomination the name of Dr. Barbara Newhouse, as Secretary-Treasurer and also the names of our current officers. You will read, in the minutes this proposed slate of officers to guide the Love Token Society for the next two years, was unanimously elected.

I have spoken to Barbara on the telephone and she is excited about the opportunity to serve the Love Token Society, especially since she helps Bob with mailing, etc. of the Love Letter. I promised Barbara complete cooperation to make the transition at year end as smoothly as possible. I know the members will enjoy talking to Barbara and that the position of secretary will be handled in a competent manner.

Although I will no longer be secretary, I do expect to attend future conventions and meet and talk with you.

Charles H. Godfrey

## Love Token Post Card For Sale





# LOVE TOKENS AVAILABLE

#19*	#20*	#27	#28*	#38*				
								
1884	\$40.	1883	\$40.	1878	\$100.	1922	\$40.	\$30.

#1 MI	#2* EC	#3 Maggie	#4* ODL	#5 CMF	#6* JMS	#7 HMB
1857 \$12	\$10.	1855 \$12	\$6.	1853 \$12.	\$4.	1890 \$8.
#8 EG	#9* DH	#10 HS	#12 LP	#13 DSL	#14 YML	#15 JGS
1857 \$5.	\$7.	Dime \$8.	1876 \$8.	1887 \$8	1876 \$8.	1880 \$5.
#16 W to	#17 CEB	#18 LSC	#21 hr	#22 N	#23 HF	#24 TP
Quar \$10	3pc \$6.	3 pc \$6.	Turkey \$5	S.A. \$4	1843 \$7.	Swiss \$5.
#25 CEC	#26* MWA	#29 EFCK	#30* FG	#31* MD	#32 Fan	#33* FJM
6 pc \$7.	Gold \$15.	3 pc \$6.	\$5.	Can \$6	1871 \$7.	Can \$6.
#34 AR	#35 JP	#36 JJP	#37 JW	JC30* MP	JC15*NFR	LC88 BWF
3 pc \$6.	3 pc \$6.	1854 \$8.	3 pc \$6,	Can 109 \$8	\$8.	\$8.



#11 All Australia coins "Barbara

\$35.00



LOVE TOKENS AVAILABLE

761 ELR  1882 \$9.	762 EPB  1892 \$9.	763 EEW  1876 \$9.	764 ERC  Plain \$9.	765 IA  1890 \$9.	766 ECHB  1883 \$9.	767 WWP  1884 \$9.
768 ACH  1877 \$9.	769 CIP  1884 \$9.	770 ABF  1882 \$9.	771 ICL  Rev \$9.	772 EMI  1876 \$9.	773 NFP  1888 \$9.	774 WNJ  1876 \$9.
775 CWR  1883 \$9.	776 EKI  1883 \$9.	777 CET  1882 \$9.	778 JHT  1886 \$9.	779 JSM  Rev \$9.	780 KGA  1883 \$9.	781 CRP  1877 \$9.
782 GOT  1887 \$9.	783 PSR  1882 \$9.	784 ANF  1875 \$9.	785 DRH  1890 \$9.	786 CHM  188? \$9.	787 CDB  1883 \$9.	788 WAJ  1876 \$9.
789 GPC  1883 \$9.	790 INW  1876 \$9.	791 GDF  1877 \$9.	792 JCT  1884 \$9.	793 WWP  Plain \$9.	794 GFA  1887 \$9.	795 AGP 795 AGP  1877 \$8.
796 WHD  1883 \$8.	797 MED  1882 \$8.	798 MEC  1882 \$8.	799 1896  1887 \$8.	800 JPN  1872 \$8.	801 JGP  1874 \$8.	802 GJB  1883 \$8.
803 NHJ  1876 \$8.	804 CCE  1875 \$8.	805 WPF  1877 \$8.	806 CEB  1877 \$8.	807 YTC  1857 \$8.	808 CWS  1877 \$8.	809 JCT  1877 \$8.





**Love Token Society Love Letter**

Dr. Robert C. Newhouse

3200 Ella Lane

Manhattan, KS 66502

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# Love Token Society

# LOVE LETTER



No. 144

December, 1992

## Love Token Society Officers

### **President**

Lloyd L. Entenmann  
130 Cornell Road  
Audubon, NJ 08106  
609-547-2857

### **Vice President**

Doug Jennings  
2610 Summerfield Road  
Petersburg, MI 49270  
313-279-1728

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

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3200 Ella Lane  
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913-539-1831

### **Love Letter Design**

Mary Hammel  
Manhattan, KS

### **Love Letter Layout**

Paige Birdsley  
Manhattan, KS

## Love Tokens Versus Engraved Tokens

The word "token" by itself has an extremely loose or broad meaning and generally is preceded or followed by one of the more words to designate a specific type of token. Just a very few examples would be: "political tokens"; "sales tax tokens"; "ration tokens"; "casino tokens"; "tokens of good fortune"; "tokens of sorrow"; "good for tokens"; "store tokens"; "good luck tokens"; "bawdy tokens"; "love tokens"; and "engraved tokens". One might think with such a wide variety of subjects, classification would not be difficult. Not so as we shall see.

A few years ago the Love Token Society tried to establish a definition of what constituted a "love token." After a great deal of discussion and comment, the following was accepted as a broad basic definition: "A love token should meet three basic criteria: one, be a coin of the realm taken from circulation; two, be hand engraved, preferably on one side; and three, what is engraved should have a special meaning of love of affection between the giver and receiver." For a collector of love tokens we must bear in mind it is a hobby, and as such each collector tailors his or her collection in accordance with his or her own specific desires.

In the case of love tokens we soon discover that in Great Britain, where love tokens first appeared, for some unknown reason on the early love tokens both sides of the coin were smoothed, and in many instances only one side was engraved. Again, we use the term "engrave" rather loosely. Normally engraving refers to the art of using specially prepared tools used to inscribe a medal surface. These tools are known as "engravers" or "gravers" and are used by the skilled hand of the engraver, a

*Love Tokens continued on page 4*



## President's Message

by Lloyd L. Entenmann

HO! HO! HO! 'Tis the season to be jolly! I sincerely hope this year 1992 was a good year for you, and in any event let us have faith that the year 1993 will be better! Always look for the brighter side! When things are tough, I like to think they are that way so that we will truly appreciate more the good things that follow. Always look forward, never back—you cannot change it anyway!

With the beginning of the new year, many changes take place. In our Society, we begin with a new Secretary. We welcome Barbara Newhouse in this position and feel confident she will be a welcome addition to our staff. We are most sorry to lose Charles Godfrey, as he has been an excellent Secretary, but we understand that obligations at home must take precedence over hobby obligations. For those of you who have had dealings with Charley I think it would be nice to send him a little note of thanks for a job well done. We welcome Barbara into our Society, and I earnestly request you to give her your fullest cooperation and assistance. All of the other officers have been elected to begin another two year term beginning January 1, 1993.

I really appreciate the many telephone calls, letters and cards you have sent me regarding my accident. I am recovering slowly, and hope to be able to attend the FUN show in Orlando in January. A notice on this show appears elsewhere in this Love Letter, as well as a notice on the ANA Mid-Winter convention in Colorado Springs in March.

In spite of all the advertising I am doing, the book sales are all but dead. Those members who have purchased and read the book all complement favorably on its value. How about selling your friends? Recently I received a letter from one member, and I quote, "I can't find words to tell you how much I appreciate and admire your wonderful book and the Society. The enclosed

check is a love token of my appreciation. If you will send me a couple of the books, I will attempt to find interested customers. Your book will stir up interest if I can show it to the right people." Thank you very, very much Robert Ulrich!

When the October Love Letter was mailed, all of the one page of tokens that were available (the one with the silver dollars on) were sold within 3 days—before I even got my copy. The full page of dimes did not go as fast and what are still available are shown again in this Love Letter. Again I remind you if you want any love tokens that appear in the bulletin, contact me as soon as possible or else you may be left out in the cold. The Love Letter is an excellent way for the members to dispose of their excess inventory at a fair price. The only cost is 50 cents per coin which is a donation to the Society. I do not charge anything for my efforts in the transaction. This has resulted in a nice income to our treasury, as is evident by the financial reports.

I am not able to travel very much yet, and this has caused a delay in my research efforts on the twenty dollar gold love token I recently obtained. I have it's origin and it's ending, but I am experiencing difficulty in connecting the two ends. I also have an idea or two of the Love Token Postcard, and want to try to research that one also as soon as I can get around better. The origin of this postcard may be evident, and I would like to check it out. There is no end of projects you can undertake if you just be more observant and use your imagination!

In closing, I take this opportunity to wish each and every member the happiest and most healthy blessings of the season especially in the New Year.

Sincerely,





## Financial Statement

### General Funds

Balance September 30, 1992      \$6,184.54

#### Receipts

New member      \$	20.00
Dues	1010.00
Interest (Bank Accounts	34.77
Contributions	52.00
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 1,116.77</u>
Sub-Total	\$7,301.31

#### Expenses

Check #126 Postmaster	145.00
Huntingdon Vly	
Check #127 R.C. Newhouse	106.38
LL 143	

Total Expenses      \$ 251.38

Balance November 30, 1992      \$7,049.93

### Permanent Fund

Audubon Savings & Loan Association

I Year Certificate of Deposit      \$ 432.88

### Membership Report

Membership- Sept. 30, 1992      282

New Members      3  
285

Died      -1

Resigned      -6

Membership November 30, 1992      278

#### New Members

Cindy Grellman  
Gilbert Maines  
Emma Sedore

Charles H. Godfrey  
Secretary-Treasurer

## Orlando FUN Show

The Florida United Numismatists annual FUN Show will be held at the Orange County Convention and Civic Center in Orlando, Florida, January 7, 1993 through January 10. Our Society will have a table on the bourse floor and also will hold a regional members meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 9th at 10:00 o'clock in meeting room 8D. All members who are in attendance at this show re urged to attend the meeting. Each year we a few more than the previous year. Last year we had 23 present. Please stop at our table on the floor and if possible spend an hour or so at the table and give me an opportunity to roam on the floor to see what is available. I would also like to see one or two love token exhibits entered into their competition. The publicity is urgently needed. Please support your society!

## ANA Mid-Winter Convention

The ANA Mid-Winter Convention will be held at the Broadmoor Hotel, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 11, 1993 through March 13th. I have an application in for a club table on the bourse floor and for a regional members meeting during the show. If you attend this convention, please make every effort to visit at our table, and help man it for a couple of hours to give me a chance to get around on the floor to see what is available. Also attend our meeting, especially since we have fewer members in this area. It would also be nice to have a love token exhibit here, as an attraction to our wonderful hobby.



professional artist. However, in the case of love tokens, especially in the early days of love tokens, they were made by the giver who usually was not a skilled person and engraving tools were not readily available. He had to improvise by making his own tool. This resulted in three basic tuypes of nonprofessional "engraving." First, if he had available letter stamp dies, that is a die stamp for each letter of the alphabet, he would "stamp" his message onto the coin by using the letter dies and hitting each letter one at a time usually with a hammer or some similar substitute. This process is called "counterstamped" and will be discussed further a little later. Second, he could sharpen a round piece of steel to a real fine pin point. Then draw in pencil on the coin what he wanted to put on it. Then using his fine pointed tool and a hammer, proceed to punch a series of close indentations on the design he put on the coin in pencil. This required a degree of skill and patience as each indentation had to be evenly spaced and in line with the design, and at the same time each blow of the hammer had to be with the same degree of force, or else the indentations would have varying depths and widths making the design or letters wavy or uneven. This process is known as pinpunching. Third, again using the fine pointed tool made as described above, he would use it as a pencil, and in script; exerting a great deal of pressure on the tool, inscribe what he wanted on the coin. All of these methods can be found on love tokens in Great Britain, United States, Canada, and other foreign countries.

Almost all love token collectors desire only one side of the coin to be smoothed

so that it can be identified as to the country of orgin, thus attesting to the fact that it is a legitimate coin. There are in existence engraved pieces made from jeweler's died out blanks, knock-out pieces from electrical junction boxes, and other blanks punched out from strip metal of various compositions. These of course are not acceptable to the collector of love tokens..

Another area of where our definition of a love token runs into a problem deals with what is engraved. The majority of love tokens are engraved with initials, names, inanimate figures or designs. This raises the question as to whether a piece is a love token or an engraved token. This is a problem of nonmenclature. In Great Britain and in Europe the term "love token" is seldom found, such pieces being referred to as "engraved tokens" or "engraved coins." It is because of this distinction that the first known book on love tokens bears the title LOVE TOKENS AS ENGRAVED COINS.

Earlier we mentioned the letter stamping of coins and stated that that method was often referred to as "counterstamping." In both Great Britain and in the United States counterstamping copper coins became rather popular in normal trading. It seems there was a shortage of coinage and making change became a problem. In order to keep coin in circulation, many business houses, counterstamped half-pence, pence, half-cent, and cent coins with their initials, name or some identifying mark with the idea of keeping that coinage in circulation in the same



*Love Tokens continued from page 4*

area. The coin itself was not touched but stamped right on the coin as it was minted. Since this practice was at about the same time as love tokens were coming into popularity, it is now difficult to distinguish a counterstamped store coin from a love token, especially when only initials were counterstamped. Usually a love token collector will only keep one or two of such pieces in his or her collection as representative of the type.

Another gray area in love token collecting is where we find a number of engraved tokens that are made to signify an award or prize for a specified act. Are these tokens "engraved tokens" or are they "love tokens?" Since token collecting is strictly a hobby for self-enjoyment, the consensus among love token collectors seems to be that it depends upon the individual collector as to whether to add it to his or her collection or not. Tokens that fall into this category are rather common. A few examples that I have or have seen are engraved: "Biggest Clam Eater"; "Biggest fish"; "Second Place Pie Eating Contest"; "Highest Marks St. John Grammer School"; "Remember the Maine", etc. Sometime ago I received a letter from a Nun in South Carolina inquiring about the value of a love token she had. It was on a seated liberty dime and one side engraved with a crude broad cross that was not centered and slightly crooked in a full field of tiny swirls as a background. I wrote her telling her that it was not a love token as it had no name, initials, or any indication as to why it was made, and gave her an approximate value. She sent me the token and requested a check and informed me she considered

it a love token as to her it indicated the love that the holder of it had for Jesus Christ! I rest my case!

In summary, we must not lose sight of the fact that everyone of us needs a hobby to relieve the pressure of every day living, to provide a degree of relaxation. It is not to be used as a means of investment, and if it comes to that point, then it is no longer a hobby. A hobby brings joy, relaxation, peace, quiet, intrigue, and diversion. If your hobby does not give you all of this, drop it and find something else!

## Book Sales

The book sales are next to nil. I cannot put up my Christmas tree this year because the books are taking up too much room. If you feel sorry for me, please show it by doing something to relieve the burden! (Have you seen the TV ad for Whiskas Cat Food? I am like the little bird in that ad!

## Seasons Greetings





## 80 Plus—So What

A number of our members are getting up in years, and may be beginning to look forward to a somewhat useless unhappy life. Your future depends entirely on **YOU!** Sometime ago, a "young" woman sent the following letter in to Dear Abby, and she printed it in her column. Here it is:

"People ask me how I can be so contented living alone. I am almost 84. First, I never really feel alone. There's so much life around me. I don't even eat alone. I have a tiny television set on my breakfast table, and I still live in the same house I lived in when my husband was alive."

I find life very interesting. I can hardly wait to read my daily newspaper and magazines I get. I want to live forever—just to see what will happen.

A bridge game now and then helps to keep my mind alert. So does keeping a diary and a scrapbook.

I have a new project, a la Grandma Moses. I'm writing stories. It's fun, whether they're published or not.

I think a person's attitude has more to do with staying young than genes. Of course, it's important to eat sensibility. (Even George Burns drinks prune juice!) And a little daily exercise is also necessary. I have an arthritic need, so I can't take long walks. Instead, I exercise in bed just before I get up in the morning. First, I thank God that I'm alive, then I concentrate on the GOOD things that will happen that day. Is there a better way to start the day?

I think older people should do their share of entertaining—even if it's only

homemade cookies and tea.

Sometimes the rain gets in my way, then I remind myself that others may need it, so I put on my red raincoat and go out.

Family is important. And how wonderful to have a grandchild call you a "good sport."

It doesn't bother me if I forget something. Children are the best forgetters in the world

I consider getting older a triumph, but I want to keep on learning. There is so much to learn!

At night I say, "Thank you, God, for everything. If I didn't accept all the good things I was offered, it wasn't your fault; they were there.. I'll be around tomorrow." Then I fall asleep."  
—Marie (end)

What a beautiful outlook! And what a wonderful idea for the love token collector—write stories! Look over your love token collection. Find a token that particularly strikes your fancy. Look at it! Who made it for whom? Why was it made? What were the circumstances surrounding it? Jot down your answers. Reread them, correct them, elaborate on them. Then draft your story. Study it, correct it, add to it, take something out, rewrite it. When you have it in what you feel is it's final stage, send it to the Love Letter Editor or to the President. Think of the thrill when you see it in print in the Love Letter! Try it at any age, it is good for the soul! And it is the best and least expensive stress reliever you can find!



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

As explained in the October issue of "Love Letter" (page 4, column 1), a bender was first "bent forward at the top and backward at the bottom so that it would not be spent when carried in the pocket or purse." Some of these early love tokens were, however, subsequently flattened out and returned to circulation, perhaps by jilted lovers or by insensitive relatives after a lover's death.

I have in my own collection an Edward VI flattened bender—a silver sixpence issued by the boy king between 1551 and 1553—and I have also seen other flattened benders in dealers' junk boxes at Coin Fairs.

In the November issue of the prestigious English coin catalogue known as "Spink's Numismatic Circular" there is a flattened silver groat, or fourpence, of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) offered at £190, which is the equivalent of about 295 dollars. The description reads:—

"Milled Groat. m.m. star. N. 2032; S.2601. Has been bent and straightened, otherwise VF and very rare. £190"

Is this the most expensive silver love token ever, I wonder?

Yours faithfully,



Philip T. Meldrum, LL.B., FRNS.

Dear Dr. Newhouse:

For quite sometime now I have wanted to suggest a column for the Love Letter. Procrastination has finally been overcome.

All of us collectors of love tokens (and I suspect this will hold true for most collectors of anything), have favorite specimens that we like to mention. I have used "My most . . ." many times to start a conversation that I hope will lead to an opportunity to show parts or all of my collection. "My most . . ." could be "unique", "interesting", "intriguing", "beautiful", "extravagant", or "costliest". Or how about, "My most expensive love token if it had not been made into a love token." This of course refers to coins that have obtained substantial numismatic value but do not now have that value because they were smoothed and engraved.

I submit any or all of the following for your consideration:

### 1. Unique

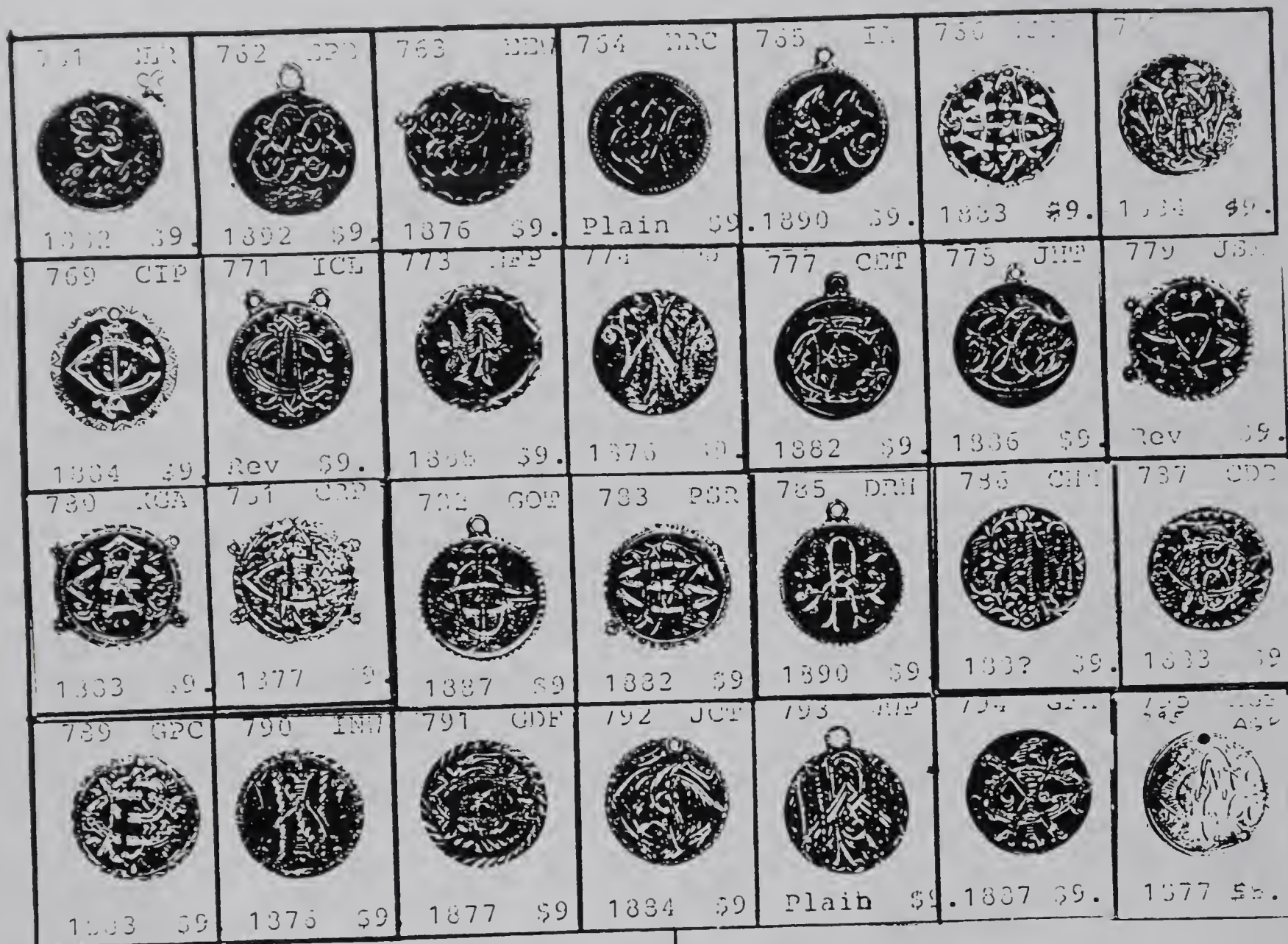
A 1903 commemorative gold dollar. This was the first souvenir gold coin authorized for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The obverse has the head of Thomas Jefferson who was the President when the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France. The beautiful obverse would grade MS63 or better. The engraving has the letters CLB in elaborate scroll work.

### 2. Expensive if it had not been

An 1895 Morgan that may have been the proof coin. The deep strike and sharp lines seem to indicate that this was the proof but wear precludes a positive identification. This is a beautifully engraved

*Letters continued on page 7*





*Letters continued from page 7*

memorium or mourning token that says, "Ernest Edward Irwin—May 12th 1905 Died Dec 16th."

### 3. Intriguing

An 1887 Liberty seated dime. The engraved reverse has a delicate scroll lines with the words "He moved" in the center.

Sincerely,

*Wayne*

Wayne Arter  
Northridge, CA

## Post-card Informaton

In error the Love Token post-card shown in the October Love Letter gave no information. It should have been shown that the flowers and leaves are all embossed with the flowers in a purple color and the leaves in a green color, with the border in both colors. Center picture is in five colors within a gold border ribbon. The Love token attached is on an 1877 dime and engraved on the obverse "EKS." Owner and I cannot agree on a price, so we are asking you to submit your highest offer for consideration.

Don't forget to include postage and insurance when ordering any of the above available love tokens: Orders up to \$50.00—\$1.25; up to \$100.00—\$2.75; up to \$150.00—\$3.50.



LOVE TOKENS AVAILABLE

810 THC  1876 \$8	811 NB  1877 \$8.	812 ECF  1875 \$8.	813 ATM  1877 \$8.	814 WCW  1886 \$8	815 CFK  1885 \$8	816 ENS  Plain \$8
817 WCK  1875 \$8.	818 ACC  1877 \$8.	819 CWM  1875 \$8.	820 GEW  1875 \$8.	821 APBjr  1877 \$8.	822 GCF  1877 \$8.	823 OFW  ? \$8.
824 TJB  1842 \$8.	825 CSW  Plain \$8.	826 GHD  1875 \$8.	827 BFW  1884 \$8.	828 GMW  1872 \$8.	829 MN  1887 \$8.	830 OKW  1875 \$8.
831 CMH  1884 \$8.	832 SKP  1874 \$8.	833 GMB  1885 \$8.	834 HHH  1889 \$8.	835 JEG  18 ? \$8.	836 SJM  Dime \$8.	837 FC  Dime \$7.
838 N  1878 \$7.	839 FWJ  1854 \$7.	840 KPG  1857 \$7.	841 SJR  1877 \$7.	842 JGW  1873 \$7.	843 N  1853 \$7.	844 MCS  1875 \$7.
845 FEW 184  1883 \$7.	846 AES  1877 \$7.	847 HR  1876 \$7.	848 SSG  1890 \$7.	849 ENL  65 pcs \$7.	850 CML  1883 \$7.	851 MEL  1876 \$7.
852 GO  Plain \$7.	853 B  1877 \$7.	854 SAG  1854 \$7.	855 JA  Cent 1887 \$6.	856 DT  Plain \$6.	857 SD  Can. 5¢ \$6.	858 SMB  1841 \$6.

#859 F  
Can \$6.  
5¢

#860 N  
1841 \$6.





**Love Token Society Love Letter**

Dr. Robert C. Newhouse

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